UN Chronicle

December 1991
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Opening of 46th Assembly

Department of Public Information
United Nations

'A big day'

It was, as Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar called it, "a big day" for the UN, with the admission of seven new Member States on 17 September, bringing UN membership to an all-time high of 166. Not since 1960 when a host of newly-independent African nations joined—16 of 17 new members that year—had the membership risen so dramatically. Thirty-one years later, the jump was attributable not only to the newly-acquired autonomy of formerly dependent territories, but also to the heady, fast-paced end to nearly half a century of "cold war" and the virtual collapse of one of the world's major political systems.

These events were symbolically reflected in the brief, colourful flag-raising ceremony held in the shadow of Manhattan's towering skyline, just outside the Delegate's Entrance at UN Headquarters in New York. From left to right, the flags are those of: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania *(for story, see p. 49).*

Cover Photo: Eskinder Debebe (UN Photo 178025)

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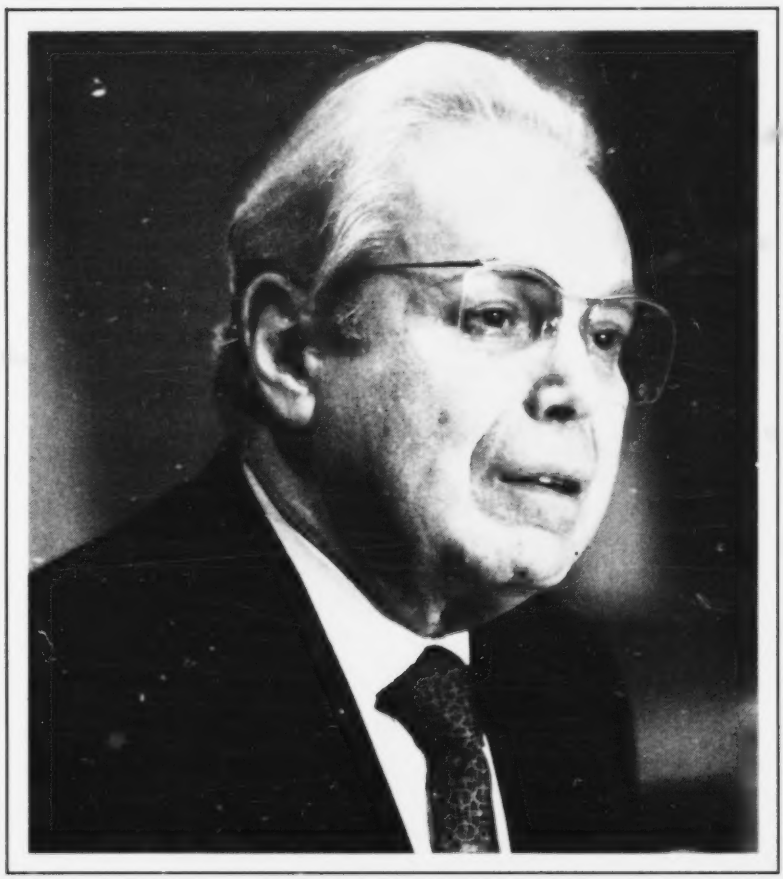
THE 38th FLOOR



UN Photo 178047/M. Grant

Excerpts from statements by UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar made between 1 July and 30 September 1991

Progress towards peace . . .

Peace in its truest sense is the inspiration and the ultimate goal of all that the United Nations does and seeks. Recent years have brought significant progress towards peace. The role of the United Nations in the promotion of peace has broadened and intensified. We are much closer to being the United Nations the Charter envisages. Unprecedented change brings fresh opportunities for peace. . . . Peace cannot attain its fullness nor can the ecological health of our planet be sustained without balanced economic development. The road to peace is long, hard and uncertain. . . . At this moment of hope and challenge, let us commit ourselves again to strive . . . for the true peace of lives lived in harmony, safety and dignity.

In observance of the International Day of Peace, New York, 17 September

More important role . . .

As new vistas open for countries to work together in ways they had not done before, there are far more solid grounds for hope for the future. No longer limited to a peripheral role, the United Nations has come much closer to the vision of its Charter. In this context, the role of non-governmental organizations, which is laid down in the Charter, will surely become even more important. . . . From women's organizations in Africa, to environmental groups in Asia, to organizations in the North advocating more responsive policies towards the South, non-governmental organizations have made an impact far beyond their numbers. . . . I know that the United Nations can rely on your continuing partnership and close cooperation as we strive for peace, justice and development on a safe planet.

To the Department of Public Information Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations, New York, 11 September

Bright era . . .

When I look back on the whole combination of circumstances that I have had to deal with during my tenure, I marvel at the resilience of the Organization. At the beginning, there was an atmosphere shadowed by the reserve and aloofness of major powers towards the United Nations. Today, that has changed into enthusiastic participation. In earlier years, the Secretariat had become the subject of much criticism, often unfair. Today, thanks to a process of reform, even if incomplete, we have a leaner organization. We have indeed reached a stage where we can better plan further reform so as to enhance the Organization's ability to respond to the increasing needs of a fast-changing global society. . . . It has been remarkable that the Secretariat has endured all the strains and never once—not in a single case—failed to respond to challenge in the most timely manner. . . . We face many uncertainties at present but the era now unfolding is bright with hope.

At the annual luncheon of the United Nations Correspondents Association, in memory of Dag Hammarskjold, New York, 17 September

Sense of partnership . . .

A sense of partnership is required between developed and developing countries not only because that is the right thing, but because they need and will continue to need each other. It would be a tragedy of great proportion if the East-West confrontation, which stifled so much peaceful creative energy for so long, were now to be replaced by an intensified alienation between the North and the South. If that is allowed to develop as a leitmotif of international affairs, it will inevitably be reflected at the United Nations, which . . . is a well-focused mirror on the world. There would be a high, if not fully foreseeable, cost to pay, if the United Nations were allowed to become a figurative battleground between an increasingly homogenous North and an increasingly impoverished and desperate South.

To the German Foreign Policy Society, Bonn, Germany, 2 July

Time to implement Charter . . .

One factor that is very much in disarmament's favour is that the concept of security has today been broadened. Its non-military aspects—political stability, respect for human rights, legitimacy of Governments, living conditions of populations, environment—are increasingly important. The problems of tomorrow . . . will be framed less and less in military terms. They will bear the name of population control and the control of migratory movements, respect for the rights of minorities, the organization of exchanges, improved public health, development. Their solutions will certainly not be military. Military solutions are . . . costly, useless and dangerous. Everyone agrees on that. This awareness remains to be translated into resolve, this resolve into a plan, and this plan into deeds. The plan . . . already exists. . . . It is called the Charter of the United Nations. Now that we have emerged from the post-war period and we have not had to endure another war to do so, it is time to implement that Charter in all its aspects.

On the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, New York, 3 July

Considerable progress made . . .

International Literacy Day this year, 8 September, marks the twenty-sixth anniversary of the opening of the World Conference of Ministers of Education in Tehran, which first called for the eradication of illiteracy. Since then, considerable progress had been made. The literacy rate has increased and the number of adult illiterates has begun to go down, despite rapid population growth in many parts of the world. There is now full awareness of the importance of literacy in the development process. However, much remains to be done and only through sustained efforts and renewed commitment can our achievements be extended to all the peoples of the world.

In observance of International Literacy Day, New York, 8 September

From top secret files

Inspectors charge Iraq has ongoing nuclear-weapons programme

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)/United Nations inspection team has reported ''conclusive evidence'' that Iraq, despite its claims to the contrary, had a ''complex, comprehensive nuclear weapons development programme'' and has made ''continued attempts to conceal the true extent'' of that programme.

After uncovering documents related to an Iraqi nuclear-weapons programme, a UN inspection team was detained for four days in a stand-off in the parking lot outside a Baghdad facility. *Above*, a view of the tense scene taken from a TV image.

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The 45-member team, in Iraq from 22 to 30 September to conduct the sixth nuclear inspection, was detained for four days by Iraqi authorities in a Baghdad parking lot outside a nuclear facility, after having obtained what was described as "top secret" documentation on Iraq's nuclear-weapons programme. Some of the materials was returned, but the "most sensitive" was confiscated, they reported.

In a preliminary report released in Vienna on 3 October, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix stated there was evidence of: a broad-based effort on an implosion-type nuclear weapon; success in machining nuclear-weapons components from natural uranium; evidence of sophisticated computer codes to develop nuclear weapons; parallel development of a nuclear missile delivery system; substantial nuclear-weapons-related procurement from foreign sources; and on-site, on-the-spot training of Iraqi engineers by foreign equipment manufacturers.

UN Photo 177914/E Debebe

Mr. Blix meeting the press *(left)*, with Mr. Ekeus *(right)*.

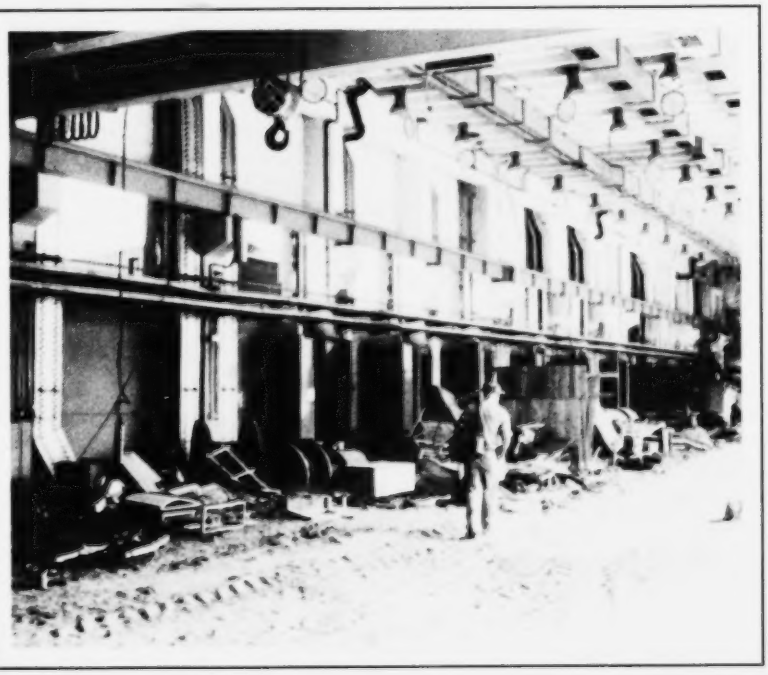
The team, headed by Chief Inspector David Kay, also concluded that:

- Iraq still has substantial nuclear facilities, which were "part of the clandestine programme and which have not been declared";
- "Significant documentary material and equipment" had been removed from identified nuclear programme sites, some shortly before the team's arrival; and
- There was "repeated and wilful non-compliance" by Iraq with Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991), as well as violation of privileges and immunities specified for UN/IAEA inspection teams.

In resolution 687 of 3 April, the terms for a formal cease-fire in the Gulf conflict were set out, including provisions calling on Iraq "unconditionally not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons or nuclear-weapons-usable material or any subsystems, components or any research, development, support or manufacturing facilities".

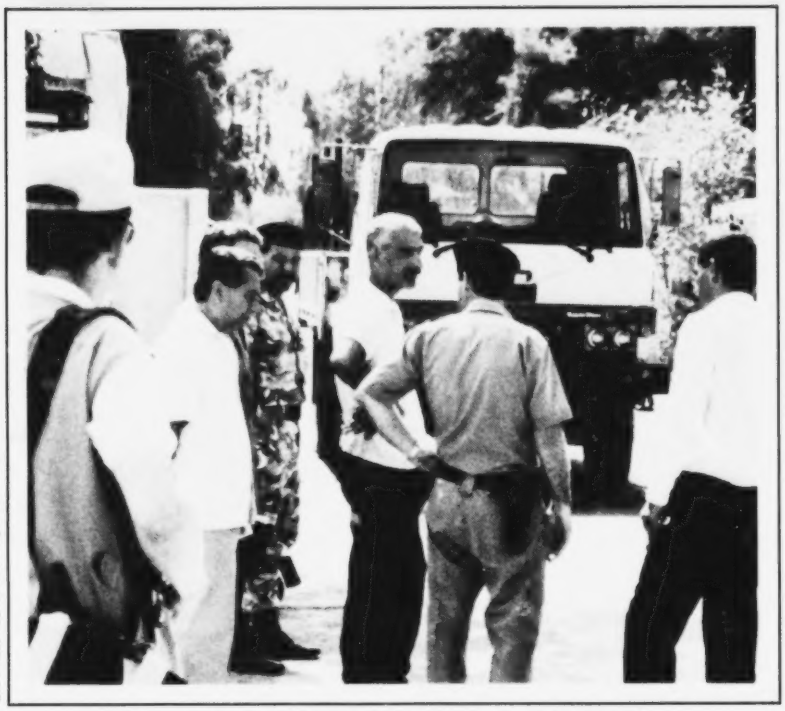
Iraq was to declare all locations, amounts and types of such items; place all nuclear-weapons-usable materials for custody and removal under the "exclusive control" of the IAEA; and accept "urgent on-site inspection" and "destruction, removal, or rendering harmless" of all such items.

The IAEA, assisted by the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament set up under resolution 687, was to



UN Photo 158480/UN Inspection Team

Inside view of an Iraqi nuclear facility.



UN Photo 158485/UN Inspection Team

UN inspectors *(left)* were blocked on several occasions from entering Iraqi facilities.

carry out "immediate on-site inspection" of the nuclear capabilities based on Iraq's declarations, as well as additional locations designated by the Special Commission. A plan was to be developed regarding destruction, removal or rendering harmless, as appropriate, of all items specified.

Resolution 687 made similar provision for Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and facilities, and for long-range ballistic missiles.

Between 14 May and 9 October, 18 UN inspections took place in Iraq—six on nuclear capabilities; five each on chemical weapons and ballistic missiles; and two on biological weapons.

On 15 August, after several incidents in which Iraq blocked UN inspection teams access to facilities and documents, the Council demanded that Iraq comply with the disarmament measures.

By adopting resolution 707, the Council condemned what it termed "serious violations" by Iraq of its disarmament obligations under resolution 687.

The Council also condemned Iraq's non-compliance with obligations under its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, in violation of its commitments as a party to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

It specified nine immediate orders, demanding Iraq, among others, to:

- Disclose fully "all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres.";
- Allow "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation" to the Special Commission, the IAEA and their inspection teams; and
- Cease immediately "any attempt to conceal, or any movement or destruction of any material or equipment relating to its nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or ballistic missiles programmes . . . without notification to and prior consent of the Special Commission".

'Petro-Chemical Three' —code name

The IAEA report also linked the Iraqi nuclear programme—codenamed "Petrochemical Three" (PC-3)—to Iraq's Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) and Iraq's Ministry of Defense.

"Contrary to Iraq's claims of having only a peaceful nuclear programme, the team found documents showing that Iraq had been working on the revision of a nuclear-weapons design and one linking the IAEC to work on a surface-to-surface missile project—presumably the intended delivery system for their nuclear weapons", the report stated. Most of the important documents were obtained, photographed or seen during visits to two establishments in Baghdad—the Nuclear Design Centre and the Petrochemical Three headquarters—on 23 and 24 September, respectively.

The documents described nuclear-weapons development experiments involving neutron initiators, enriched-uranium cores, reflectors, high-explosive lenses and electronic firing sets.

The nuclear-weapons design work, the team stated, was conducted at Al Atheer—a facility which Iraq claimed had no nuclear connection but which, according to an Iraqi top secret report, had the objective of designing and producing a nuclear device. Previous inspection teams had concluded that the facility was most probably to be used for nuclear-weapons component production, high-explosive experiments and device assembly.

Iraqi position

On 30 September, Iraq informed *(S/23102)* the Secretary-General that the inspection team's "contrived and biased mode of behaviour" was being used to "give currency to allegations against the Iraqi nuclear programme dedicated to peaceful purposes within the framework of the concerted campaign of animosity against Iraq".

Iraq said it would not acknowledge any document or visual material with respect to which no joint record had been drawn up by the two sides. If an accusation should present itself involving documents or visual materials that had not been entered in the joint record, that would indicate that there was "a deliberate intention to do a disservice to Iraq".

On 2 October, in a communiqué *(S/23110)* to the Secretary-General, Iraq charged that Chief Inspector Kay was reporting "important information relating to Iraqi documents" to the United States Government before it was received by the UN, even though the team was "answerable only to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to the Special Commission itself".

On 23 and 24 September, the team had inspected buildings and "confiscated documents", Iraq said, "before the employees concerned arrived, without their knowledge and without them seeing". That was unacceptable, Iraq stated. The Chief Inspector and those of the team members who had "private" links with foreign intelligence circles" had sought to "insinuate spurious documents that had nothing to do with us" in order to provide a rationale for "false accusations".

Iraq also accused the team of behaviour "incompatible with prevailing customs and values in Iraqi society", including forcing and breaking open doors and locks; beginning visits to facilities before the official start of the workday; and tampering with private property, such as staff members' handbags and briefcases, and opening envelopes containing private letters.

Iraqi officials accompanying the team and the staff at the visited sites "exercised the greatest degree of self-control and behaved judiciously despite such provocative modes of behaviour", Iraq reported.

Detention drama

The sixth inspection team arrived in Baghdad on 22 September and undertook its first inspection the next day at the Nuclear Design Centre in the capital city, arriving at 5:59 a.m. local time. Shortly after 10 a.m., the team found four boxes of classified documents in the basement.

When the team attempted to leave the facility at 3:45 p.m., they were prevented from doing so. At 4:30 p.m., Iraqi authorities began to review the documents obtained by the inspectors and at 7 p.m., they were confiscated by the Iraqi authorities. Seven hours later—at 2 a.m. on 24 September—most, but not all the documents were returned.

At 6:20 a.m., a second inspection began at the Petrochemical Three programme headquarters in Baghdad. At 10:50 a.m., Iraqi authorities demanded that all work stop and the team leave immediately. At 12:30 p.m., Dr. Jaffar Dhla Jaffar, a senior administrator of the programme, arrived and demanded all documents and film, after which a stalemate ensued.

Iraqi security surrounded the premises. The inspectors were told they would be detained until they underwent personal searches and surrendered all photographs, films, videotapes and copies of Iraqi documents.

Almost four days later, at 5:46 a.m. on 28 September, the team detained in the parking lot of the facility was released. The same day, a joint IAEA/Iraq inventory was undertaken of the documents collected during the second inspection.

On 29 September, the team conducted unproductive searches for documents at the IAEC Training Centre, the Reactor Siting and Planning building and other facilities. On 30 September, the team departed for Bahrain.

UN Photo 158483/UN Inspection Team

Objects were removed from an Iraqi barracks *(shown above)* in June, as a UN team attempted to inspect equipments there.

Meanwhile, in New York . . .

On 23 September in New York, Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus informed the Security Council of the standoff in Baghdad. Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France said its members had asked him to contact Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein immediately to demand, on the Council's behalf, that the inspectors be permitted to leave the site with the documents, in line with Council resolutions.

After consultations on 24 September, President Merimée, on behalf of members, said the Council fully supported the Special Commission and the inspection team, which had fulfilled its tasks "with exceptional dedication". The Special Commission, acting under Council authority, was the sole judge of the definition of the documents, sites or materials subject to inspection.

The Council expressed its "strong condemnation" of how Iraqi authorities had repeatedly prevented the inspectors from carrying out their duties. In particular, it was "unacceptable" that the inspectors could not freely leave the premises they had inspected earlier that day.

It demanded that the team immediately and unconditionally be allowed to leave the site where they had been kept and, in particular, that they could take with them all documents they deemed appropriate. The Council wanted its "serious concerns" conveyed to Iraq.

In a 24 September letter *(S/23065)* to the Council President, Iraq protested the team's actions, which it said "exceeded its original mandate" by photocopying personal files of industrial and metallurgical personnel, including scientists and researchers. That had "endangered the security of the personnel concerned and their families", since the files contained details of their private lives, their private addresses and other data unrelated to the implementation of resolution 687.

UN Photo 178113J Blu

Council President Merimée of France *(right)* meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein *(second from left)* in New York.

On 25 September, the Secretary-General appealed to Iraqi Foreign Minister Hussein during their meeting in New York for the release of the inspection team.

On 28 September, the IAEA reported that at 11 p.m. the previous day, Iraq had notified Chief Inspector Kay that it had agreed to the terms, which were not disclosed, set out by the Council for the team's release.

Nuclear inspections

Nuclear inspections began on 14 May, with the first team completing its work on 22 May. During a second nuclear inspection from 23 June to 3 July, the IAEA reported that Iraqi military authorities had twice denied or restricted access to a designated site. After protests, access was granted but materials that the team wished to inspect had been removed.

The Council met on 26 June to discuss the matter and adjourned without taking action. It reconvened on 28 June, issuing a statement asking for "immediate and unimpeded access" to inspection sites, and stating that "any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences".

On 30 June, a special UN mission arrived in Baghdad to convey to Iraq the Council's "urgent demand for unequivocal assurances that the Government will take all necessary measures to ensure that no hindrances are placed in the way of the discharge of the Special Commission's mandate".

The mission was composed of Special Commission Executive Chairman Rolf Ekeus, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix and Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Yasushi Akashi.

In early July, the mission reported that Iraq had stated it would not hinder UN inspection activities and had issued orders to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel engaged in those tasks. It also reported that Iraq's

response to the request for access "fell short" of what had been called for by the Council.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on 5 July affirmed *(S/22762)* to the Secretary-General the guarantees given to the UN mission, ensuring "prompt and unimpeded access" to "locations and items designated for inspection", in accordance with Council resolution 687.

Other nuclear developments

On 10 July, the IAEA announced that France and the United Kingdom would jointly recover and render harmless the nuclear fuel elements present in Iraq, in fulfilment of resolution 687. The recovered materials would be subject to IAEA safeguards. The Agency had asked for assistance from Member States possessing appropriate capabilities.

On 11 July, Director-General Blix reported *(S/22788)* that, in the wake of the first two inspections, Iraq had declared evidence of the research and development required for electromagnetic isotope separation technique (EMIS) and that a large EMIS process plant had been under construction at Tarmiyah. It was stated that conclusive evidence of uranium isotope separation must await the results from environmental samples.

The third nuclear inspection took place from 6 to 19 July. The team worked from a list of sites and items provided by Iraq on 7 July, giving details of an extensive nuclear programme, an important part of which had not been declared earlier, according to a UN official.

An initial examination indicated the existence of three parallel programmes for uranium enrichment and related equipment and facilities. Iraq had reported that half a kilogram of slightly enriched material had been produced during testing.

After the third inspection, the team reported it had placed under Agency seals "a considerable amount of nuclear material and a number of equipment items" related to the newly-disclosed Iraqi uranium enrichment programme. However, it stated that much work and analysis remained to be done before any conclusions could be reached as to the completeness of Iraq's declarations to date.

The Security Council held informal consultations on 15 July on UN nuclear inspections and Iraqi compliance. The Council was told of Iraq's uranium enrichment programme and considered whether it was fundamentally directed at peaceful energy production or for nuclear weapons production.

Director-General Blix said that the Iraqi programme had not been conducted in compliance with Iraq's obligations under its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, under which Iraq would have been obliged to declare some of the materials which had only just become public.

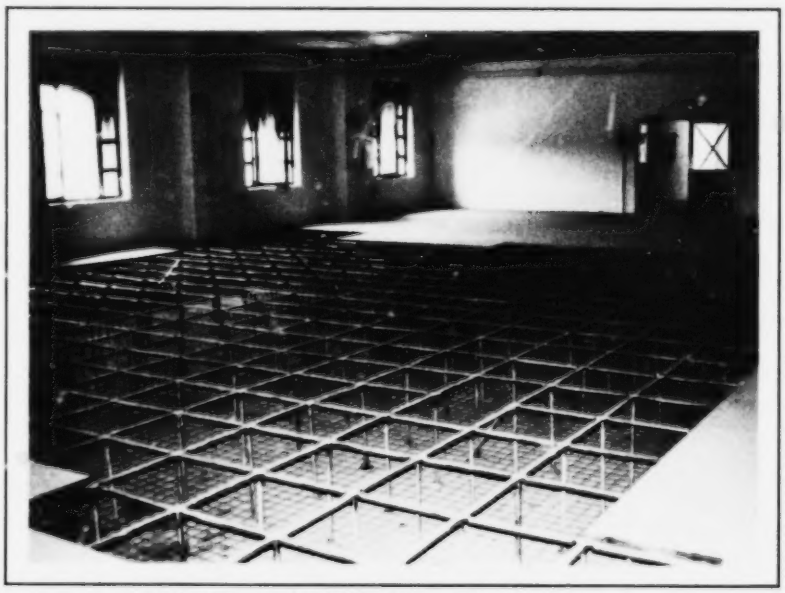
On 18 July, the IAEA Board of Governors condemned Iraq for non-compliance with its safeguards agreement. It was the first time a State party to the NPT had been condemned for concealing a nuclear programme.

The Board declared that Iraq had violated its safeguards agreement by "not submitting nuclear material and relevant facilities in its uranium enrichment programme to the Agency's inspection".

Mr. Blix said major changes were needed to strengthen the safeguards system. The case of Iraq demonstrated the "challenges that may need to be met and the ability of the Agency to meet them".

On 23 July, Iraq informed *(S/22826)* the Secretary-General that the IAEA condemnation was based on "predetermined political concepts and motives, the intention being to bestow technical legitimacy through a specialized agency in preparation for a fresh act of military aggression against Iraq, following the full revelation by Iraq of its nuclear programme".

On 29 July, the IAEA informed the Secretary-General, based on the third inspection, that "the possibility exists that there are still undeclared locations with sensitive equipment and material". Also,

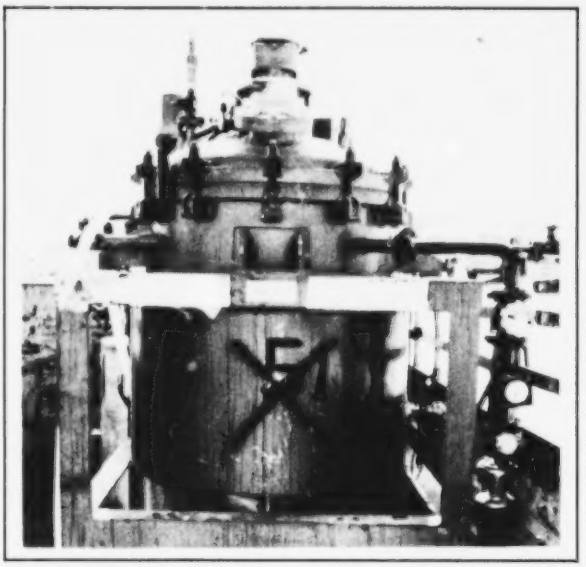


UN Photo 158481/UN Inspection Team

At the Tarmiyah facility for uranium enrichment.

UN Photo 158486/UN Inspection Team

Inspecting an Iraqi truck near Al-Haaswa.



UN Photo 158482/UN Inspection Team

Iraqi nuclear equipment inspected by UN.

Iraq had accumulated a large inventory of natural uranium and it was likely that the full extent of the centrifuge enrichment programme had not yet been disclosed.

By removing concrete that had been poured over a key uranium-enrichment component at a main production site at Tarmiyah, the team had confirmed earlier suspicions that the installation had been constructed for enrichment purposes. If fully operational, the facility could have produced up to 15 kilograms (93 per cent) of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) a year, or more at a lower enrichment level, the team concluded. Iraq denied that "any political decision had been taken to use the enrichment programme to develop nuclear weapons".

On 30 July, the IAEA reported to the Council that the team had concluded that the full extent of Iraq's enrichment programme had not yet been disclosed.

More than 30 nuclear sites in Iraq had been visited during the three inspections, it was reported, and more than 300 samples of nuclear and environmental material had been taken.

Immediate on-site inspections would continue, but a permanent inspection presence in Iraq might be necessary in the future to allow inspections on short notice.

Fourth nuclear inspection

A fourth inspection team visited Iraq from 27 July to 10 August. During that time, Iraq provided further information regarding nuclear activities which the IAEA said should have been previously declared under Iraq's safeguards agreement with the Agency.

The information concerned details of experimental activities involving fabrication of natural uranium oxide fuel, its irradiation in research reactors at Tuwaitha and separation of minute quantities—3 grams—of plutonium.

Although the activities were on a very limited scale and the reactor used would only have been capable of producing insignificant quantities of plutonium, Iraq's interest in the plutonium separation was noteworthy, the IAEA said. Failure to declare the data in a timely fashion constituted "clear non-compliance", it stated. Particularly disturbing was the fact that the activities could take place in safeguarded facilities.

The fourth team reported *(S/22986)* that, in addition to the clandestine programme that had separated 3 grams of plutonium from irradiated reactor fuel, there was a fast-paced uranium enrichment project at the stage of initial industrial production at Tarmiyah. The plan was to bring on line a production facility of 90 separators which could have produced 15 kilograms of HEU per annum using

natural uranium as feed, it was reported. Furthermore, Iraq had indicated a project to produce enriched uranium by gas centrifuges beginning in 1993.

A fifth team, visiting Iraq from 14 to 20 September, said Iraq had reported that 2.2 tons of heavy water which had been imported had been lost because of bomb damage to the storage tank. The chemical exchange enrichment facilities shown to the team had been thoroughly cleaned, leaving no evidence of the extent of the programme.

Chemical inspections

The first chemical weapons inspection was carried out from 9 to 15 June by a survey mission at a 25-square-mile site with 70 buildings near Samarra. It was reported to be heavily contaminated by chemicals and had unexploded ordnance.

On 31 July, Special Commission Chairman Ekeus told reporters in New York that the inspectors were surprised at the size of Iraq's chemical weapons programme, reported to be four times greater than acknowledged by Iraq.

Iraq had previously declared having from 10,000 to 11,000 chemical weapons, but the team found some 46,000 pieces of field chemical munitions located near airports in and around Baghdad.

Mr. Ekeus said the long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons would diverge from the current "search and destroy" missions and enter into a new territory—production capabilities. The monitoring would be based on data reporting from Iraq, on-site inspections of declared and non-declared sites, and surveillance from above.

The Secretary-General remarked that the Iraqis were "apparently concealing chemical weapons, which, of course, is very bad news".

A second chemical inspection was undertaken from 15 to 23 August in the Baghdad area and a third from 31 August through 8 September at Dujayl and Fallujah.

A UN team of experts had undertaken a fact-finding mission in Iraq from 11 to 14 August to discuss possible options for direct Iraqi involvement in a chemical weapons destruction programme, under appropriate Special Commission control.

Subjects discussed included: interlinked topics of collection and transport; defusing and rendering munitions explosively harmless and checking that munitions were defused and explosively inert; breaching and draining of munitions; destroying unfilled and emptied munitions; and destroying chemical weapons agents and precursors.

"Considerable progress was made in identifying potential Iraqi contribution to all those aspects of the overall destruction programme and in identifying the scope for direct Iraqi participation in that programme", the Commission stated.

The Special Commission had placed priority on survey, inspection and recording of Iraq's chemical weapons assets. In addition to inspecting undeclared sites to establish that all chemical weapons assets had been recorded, the Commission would also inspect declared sites with a view to preparing munitions and agents for destruction.

The second team visited chemical production sites in the Al Fallujah area, the pilot plants at Al Muthanna and the declared storage site at Tammuz (Al Taqqadum) Air Base at Habbaniyah. Discussion with Iraqi officials clarified previous ambiguities about the Al Muthanna State Establishment, also known as the State Enterprise for Pesticide Production (SEPP).

Some commercially available chemical weapons precursor chemicals were found. Three intended precursor production sites were extensively damaged by bombing during the hostilities.

Iraqi authorities stated that chemical weapons agents were neither produced nor stored at any of those sites. The team found no evidence which contradicted that statement.

The third chemical team visited sites that Iraq had declared were used for storage, as well as sites not declared but considered by the

UN Photo 158633/S. Kunhambu for Johan Photos

UN team with artillery projectiles for mustard gas dispersion damaged by fire.

UN Photo 158636/S. Kunhambu for Inman Photos

Iraqi workers opening chemical agent missile warhead.

Special Commission to be of possible interest. The condition of munitions was examined. Samples were taken to be analysed in Finland, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The team also inspected chemical warheads for the Al Hussein ballistic missile, stored close to the main road between Baghdad and Samarra. Some were filled with a nerve agent. Mustard agent-filled bombs were also found, some of which had ruptured due to excess internal pressure, releasing mustard gas. They were to be transported to a facility near Samarra for destruction.

No undeclared filled chemical weapons were found. However, some 6,000 undeclared containers for chemical warfare agents to be used in rockets were found, as were considerable quantities of tear gas munitions and devices, which Iraq said were intended for training purposes.

During the fourth chemical inspection from 31 August to 4 September, the Al Muthanna State establishment, where all chemical weapons were to be destroyed, was surveyed. The 10-member team also supervised the destruction by Iraq of more than 8,000 individual munitions—mostly bombs, artillery projectiles and rockets—all clearly designed to be used as chemical weapons.

A fifth chemical inspection was scheduled to take place from 6 October through 9 November.

Biological weapons

The first biological weapons inspection was undertaken from 2 to 8 August. The team visited a site near Salman Pak, where facilities for fermentation, production, aerosol testing and storage existed. However, no evidence of biological weapons *per se* was obtained and no facility for filling weapons was determined. The site had been extensively damaged by coalition force bombardment and by the recent physical removal by the Iraqis of key buildings.

Discussions were also held with the Ministries of Health and Agriculture to define a base of microbiological, especially pathogen, activities within Iraq.

On 5 August, Iraq stated that it had begun biological research for defensive military purposes in 1986. The substances included anthrax, botulinum, brucellosis and tularaemia. That research was terminated in August 1990, Iraq said, adding that no production or weaponization of biological agents had taken place.

A second biological weapons inspection team visited 10 declared and undeclared sites in Iraq from 20 September to 3 October. Four were inspected without advance notice. The 10 sites included a pharmaceutical plant, a blood bank, vaccine production facilities and research and development laboratories with fermentation capabilities and specially designed facilities to enable work with hazardous disease-causing organisms of humans and animals to be carried out.

No biological weapons or facilities for filling weapons were found However, the inspection team unanimously agreed that the Iraqi biological weapons programme, which consisted of a research component at Salman Pak, logically would have included a plan for a development and production component.

Ballistic missiles

The fourth in a series of inspections of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities took place from 6 to 12 September.

Three previous inspections took place from 30 June to 7 July, 18 to 20 July and 8 to 15 August.

Destruction of ballistic missiles began with the first inspection team's activities, before a comprehensive destruction policy had been established. The first team carried out the initial inventory and supervision of the destruction of all declared missiles, launchers and support equipment, visiting seven different sites and facilities. Missile systems and components destruction was primarily a straightforward task of crushing by bulldozers which was readily carried out by the Iraqis. Three of the sites were former production and repair facilities that had been destroyed by coalition bombing.

The second ballistic missile inspection was conducted on short notice to investigate information suggesting additional undeclared missile and support equipment. That team found undeclared decoy missiles and additional support equipment in the vicinity of a site previously inspected by the first ballistic missile team. Those were also destroyed.

The third ballistic missile team conducted inspections focusing on declared and undeclared suspected ballistic missile production facilities. In addition, a survey of the declared "supergun", propellant

and unassembled parts at three different sites was undertaken. A significant number of documents and blueprints related to the construction and development of that system were provided to the inspection team. The information obtained and photographs taken were collected for study and use later in a planned inspection/destruction activity.

Production, repair and test equipment and machinery associated with the Scud, Al Hussein and Badr 2000 missiles were inspected and identified for destruction at five declared and seven undeclared sites. All sites suffered damage during the coalition bombing, some extensively, with structures and equipment being completely destroyed or damaged and others virtually intact. Identification for destruction of specific missile tooling and test equipment was readily accepted by the Iraqis.

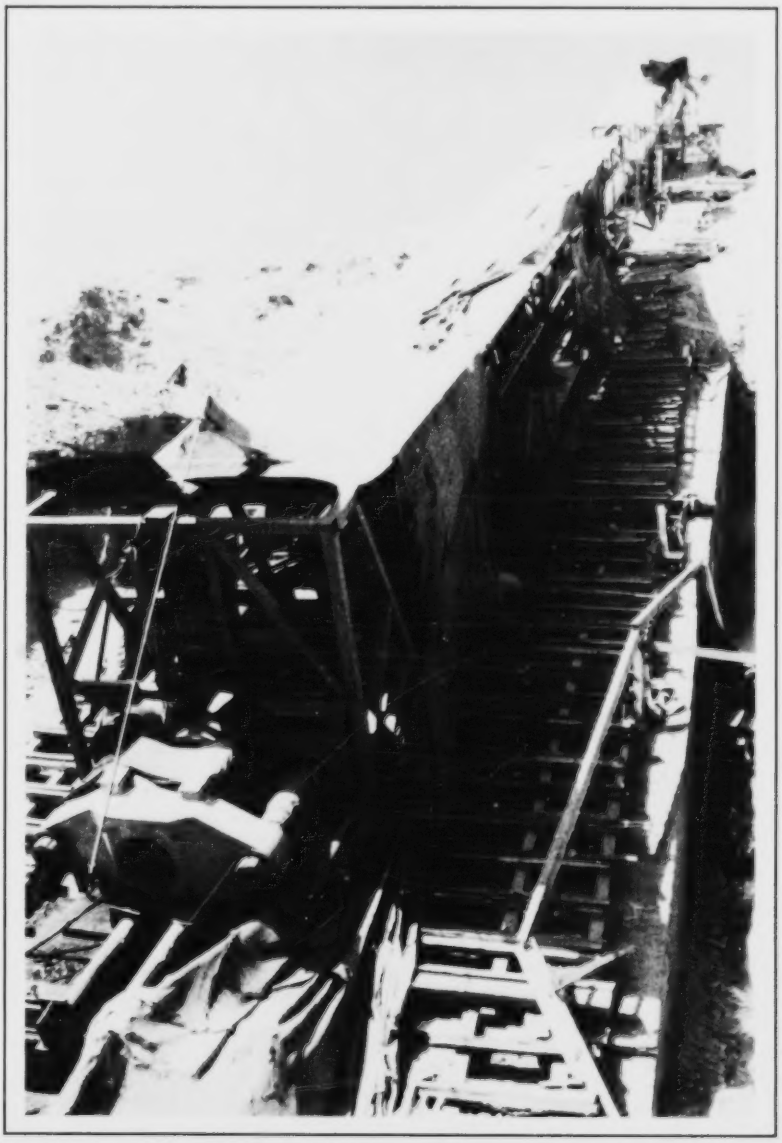
Machinery and equipment identified for destruction, which also had non-missile application (dual use) or use in missile systems not prohibited by Security Council resolution 687, generated vigorous controversy and opposition. That equipment was sealed and guidance was requested from the Special Commission. An inventory was made of all other equipment to enable the Special Commission to decide on its destruction, removal or rendering harmless in consonance with policies being developed by the Commission in those respects. After the return of the team to New York, the destruction of certain equipment was called for in a letter to the Iraqi Government, based on the inspection report and the provisional guidelines on destruction, removal or rendering harmless initiated by the Special Commission.

At one undeclared site, the team discovered an additional 187 Scud fuel, oxidizer and starter storage tanks. The team also found 30 Scud warhead canisters containing chemical-filled warheads in the same vicinity. Although the warheads had been declared to the Special Commission, they were not at the location specified in the declaration. Upon completion of that inspection, Iraq provided the team with a declaration of additional Scud fuel and oxidizer storage tanks.

The fourth team inspected and monitored the destruction of fixed SCUD missile launchers declared by Iraq in the "Western Zone".

The team was to be the first to use UN-provided helicopters to cover the significant distances involved. Although Iraq had offered the use of its helicopters, the Special Commission preferred to use its own aircraft.

The team reported that Iraq denied entry and use of the UN helicopters. After conducting two



UN Photo 158472/H Arvidsson

The assembled 350-mm "super gun" installed approximately 180 km. north of Baghdad was rendered harmless at the beginning of October.

inspections in the vicinity of Baghdad, operations were suspended pending resolution of the helicopter problem.

Results of the two inspections were significant, the team reported. Iraq had taken four of eight previously eliminated SCUD missile transport vehicles, temporarily welded them together and moved them to a facility south of Baghdad containing missiles with a range of less than 150 kilometres. At that site, an additional triple-missile support, not previously declared, was noted. The Chief Inspector gave instructions that the transporters and the missile-support equipment were to be destroyed, and subsequently they were verified by the team as inoperable.

After four days without resolving the problem, the team was withdrawn from Iraq, in accordance with its original schedule.

In consultations on 23 September, the Council met to continue its discussion of Iraq's refusal to let UN inspection teams overfly Iraqi weapon sites with its own helicopters.

In a Council statement, President Merimée said that the oral response by Iraq on 22 September did not meet Council requirements. It had specifically asked for a formal, written commitment by Iraq that it would implement unreservedly provisions of resolution 707.

Iraq, he said, had stuck to the conditions linked to its acceptance of Council resolutions and had never referred to resolution 707, only to resolution 687.

Council members unanimously thought Iraq's reply fell short of its demand and that the Council President should immediately start bilateral consultations on the matter.

The matter was resolved on 24 September when the Iraqi Ambassador sent a letter (*S/23064*) to the Council on the use by the Special Commission of its own helicopters. The Council considered the letter's contents as an unconditional acceptance by Iraq of resolution 707. On 27 September, a UN official said Mr. Ekeus had sent a letter to Iraq setting out the modalities for the use of UN helicopters.

Aerial surveys

On 12 August, a UN official said the Special Commission would have to undertake its own direct high-altitude aerial surveys to determine further designations of Iraqi sites for inspection and to monitor and secure compliance with resolution 687.

After reviewing available possibilities, the Special Commission asked the United States to put at its disposal a high-altitude one-seater aircraft—a U-2—designed for aerial surveys. Operations began in the first half of August.

It was to receive photographs of all sites, locations, facilities and objects surveyed. It could then independently evaluate the material necessary to fulfil its functions.

On 11 September, Mr. Ekeus told reporters that, while "some progress" had been made with regard to inspections, the Commission had not received full cooperation from Iraq in major areas of its work. The body, he said, was trying to understand the interrelationships of the various Iraqi military activities, in what he called an Iraqi "master plan". Inspections were continuing to gain full disclosure of all Iraqi military capabilities.

The Commission, he went on, needed helicopters to carry out flights over Iraq, as mandated by resolution 707 and for destruction of weapons in areas remote from Baghdad. Germany had provided three helicopters with a full crew. Iraq's offer to use its own helicopters was, he said, "inappropriate" because of the need for surprise visits and short-notice activities.

Security Council members discussed the Commission's use of helicopters during consultations on 10 September. On 13 September, the Council held consultations on Iraq's reported refusal to allow an inspection team of the Special Commission to fly UN helicopters over Iraqi weapons sites.

Following the meeting, President Merimée told reporters the Council had decided that he should summon the Iraqi Ambassador and tell him that the Council considered the matter "very serious".

UN Photo 158410J Isaac

The UN wanted to undertake its own aerial surveys.

Monitoring and verification

On 27 August, the Council discussed in closed consultations a long-term plan to monitor and verify Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. However, no action was taken.

It considered two reports on the subject: one from the IAEA *(S/22872)* dealing with nuclear materials; and a second from the Secretary-General *(S/22871)*, prepared in close cooperation with the Special Commission dealing with Iraq's long-range ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons.

Both called for continued monitoring and verification of declared and non-declared military and civilian sites, facilities and material to ensure that Iraq did not use, retain, possess, develop, construct or otherwise acquire any long-range ballistic missiles, chemical and biological weapons, and nuclear-weapons-usable material.

The IAEA proposal called for Iraq to supply an inventory of its nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapons-usable materials and installations, as well as equipment and non-nuclear material, and notify the Agency of any changes one month before they were made.

The IAEA required complete design information for any planned nuclear installations 180 days before construction begins. It also required the right to full and free access at any time to all locations, all persons and all information it decided was necessary for the verification programme. In addition, the Agency plan stipulates freedom of entry and exit to Iraq for IAEA experts and UN personnel, supplies and equipment.

Under the plan, Iraq must declare all locations, amounts and types of weapons to the UN Secretary-General and the IAEA Director-General within 15 days of approval of the plan by the Security Council.

Iraq was also required to place all of its nuclear-weapons-usable materials under the exclusive control of IAEA for custody and removal, and to accept urgent on-site inspections and destruction, and removal or rendering harmless of all nuclear items.

The plan on long-range ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons would be carried out by a compliance unit to be organized under the Special Commission. Financing would be determined by competent UN organs.

To ensure that no weapons materials were imported to Iraq, a mechanism would be developed—before sanctions were lifted—to uphold the prohibition on the sale and supply to Iraq of any weapons or related items. The mechanism would provide for timely information about any sale or supply of dual-purpose items.

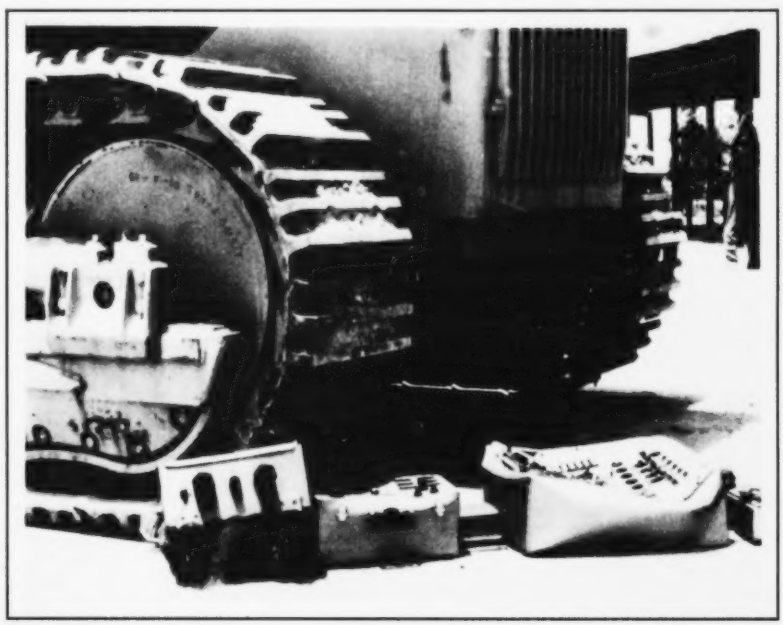
Iraq would have to provide the Special Commission, within 30 days of approval and thereafter on a regular basis, full, correct and timely information on activities, sites, facilities, material and other items, both military and civilian, that might be used for purposes prohibited in resolution 687.

The Special Commission would have the right to inspect, at any time and without hindrance, any activity, material or facility, and to carry out air surveillances over any part of Iraqi territory. In addition, it would have the right to stop and inspect vehicles, ships, aircraft or any other means of transportation within Iraq, and to inspect imports or exports upon arrival or departure.

The plan specified that Iraq must cooperate fully with the Special Commission in all aspects of its work, including the allowance of unrestricted freedom of entry into and exit from Iraq without delay or hindrance.

Annexed to the report were separate lists of chemicals, biological items and materials used in missile production which require close monitoring.

The Special Commission would, through the Secretary-General, report to the Council every six months on the implementation of the plan and at any other time the Council might request.



UN Photo 158414/H Arvidsson

The process of Iraqi disarmament had been launched.

Resolutions now total 21

Security Council permits limited oil sales by Iraq, sets compensation payment rate

Also demands Iraqi compliance with disarmament measures

UN Photo 158214/J Isaac

Oil refinery at Shuaiba, Kuwait, damaged during Gulf war.

The Security Council on 15 August partially lifted a ban on the sale of Iraqi oil and set compensation payments for damage inflicted on Kuwait during the war at 30 per cent of Iraq's annual oil exports. It also demanded Iraq's compliance with disarmament measures imposed following the Gulf war. It did so in adopting three more resolutions related to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

In unanimously adopting resolution 705 (1991), the Council decided that Iraq's compensation payments for losses and damage resulting from the 2 August 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent seven-month occupation should not exceed 30 per cent of the annual value of Iraq's exports of petroleum and petroleum products. That percentage would be reviewed from time to time, the Council stated.

The resolution was prepared during consultations on the basis of the Secretary-General's suggestion.

Resolution 706 (1991), also adopted on 15 August, among other things, stipulated the terms for the limited sale of Iraqi oil and oil products, so that essential civilian needs could be met under strict conditions and with close UN monitoring. The sum to be produced by Iraq's limited oil exports could not exceed $1.6 billion, the Council stipulated.

A recent humanitarian mission to Iraq by the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate, Sadruddin Aga Khan, determined that the present food, health and nutrition situation there was "critical". There were widespread shortages of essential medicines and medical supplies.

On 4 September, the Secretary-General recommended *(S/23006)* the basic structure and measures for the sale of Iraqi oil, aimed at meeting that country's humanitarian requirements. Noting that there would be a shortfall of approximately $800 million in the amount estimated by the Executive Delegate as necessary to meet the humanitarian and essential civilian requirements, the Secretary-General reported that he would, at the appropriate time, recommend an increase in the maximum figure of $1.6 billion.

Iraq must report monthly on its gold and foreign currency reserves. It will be permitted to sell its petroleum products for a six-month period, with full payment by purchasers deposited into a UN-established and -controlled escrow account. Funds from that account would then be used to purchase

essential foodstuffs and supplies for civilian needs, cover the costs to the UN of its roles in this respect and meet Iraq's financial obligations under previous Council resolutions.

Those obligations include Iraq's payments to the UN Compensation Fund to pay claims by victims of Kuwait's invasion and occupation; the full costs of destroying, removing or rendering harmless Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and monitoring Iraq's compliance with its disarmament requirements; UN expenses incurred in facilitating the return of all Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq; and half the expenses of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, established on 17 May.

The Secretary-General was to report on activities to facilitate the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains present in Iraq on or after 2 August 1990.

Resolution 706—sponsored by Belgium, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States—was adopted by a vote of 13 to 1 (Cuba), with 1 abstention (Yemen).

On 19 September, the Council adopted resolution 712 (1991) to implement resolution 706 on the sale of Iraqi oil.

Confirming the ceiling of $1.6 billion, the Council authorized the immediate release by the Secretary-General of the first one third of that amount from the escrow account, subject to the availability of funds, to meet Iraq's essential civilian needs.

The Council urged that any provision to Iraq of foodstuffs, medicines and supplies to meet those needs should be undertaken through arrangements which assured their equitable distribution.

The Council also decided that the oil should be immune from legal proceedings and that all States should take steps to ensure that protection.

It reaffirmed that the escrow account, as well as inspectors and experts engaged in the implementation of the resolution, enjoyed UN privileges and immunities.

Resolution 712 was adopted by a vote of 13 to 1 (Cuba), with 1 abstention (Yemen), and was sponsored by Belgium, France, Romania, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States. This brought to 21 the total number of Council texts adopted under the item "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait", since the crisis began in August 1990.

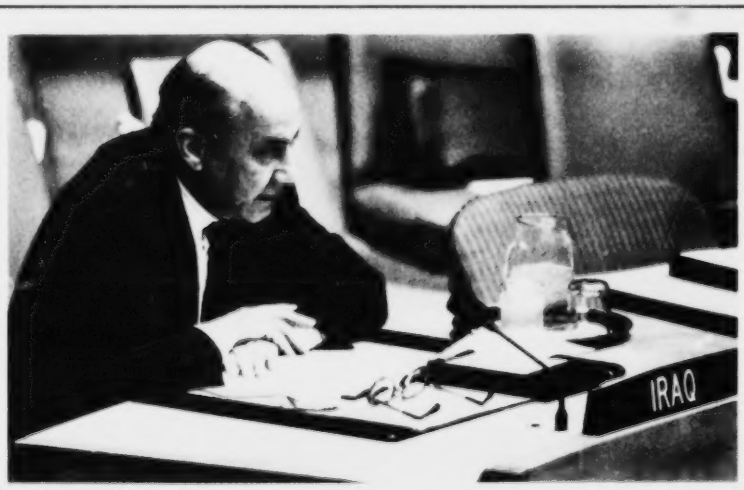
What was termed "serious violations" by Iraq of its disarmament obligations were condemned in resolution 707 (1991). Also sponsored by Belgium, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, the text was adopted unanimously *(see story on p.4)*.

UN Photo 177948/M. Grant

Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan of Kuwait.

Debate

In debates on the resolutions, Kuwait said the Iraqi regime had exposed international peace and security in the Gulf and throughout the world to danger.



UN Photo 178088/M. Grant

Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari of Iraq.

UN Photo 158436/J. Isaac

Oil fires raging in Kuwait.

The region would not recover its stability until that regime was "placed under effective international control and its vindictive spirit reined in". Sanctions against Iraq must not be lifted until that occurred.

Iraq said the "alliance" wanted to destroy Iraq as an effective Arab force, influential in determining the region's fate. The continued economic embargo and other Council actions were aimed at "putting Iraq forever under the trusteeship of the United States and its allies". The "pretexts" invoked to impose sanctions against Iraq had ceased to exist.

Iraq wanted a grace period of five years before deductions were made from oil revenue income. It also asked for a decrease in the deduction ceiling from 30 to 10 per cent. Resolution 706 would result in catastrophic consequences, as Iraq would be given a minimum of aid so that its people would not starve to death, but without providing the opportunity to reconstruct its economy.

The Council's "arbitrary" resolutions, Iraq charged *(S/22957)*, were part of "an iniquitous and hostile policy directed against Iraq by means of which the neo-colonialist States are seeking to make of Iraq a deterrent example to other third world countries and a field of experiment for their schemes to intervene in the affairs of the other countries", to prevent them from achieving economic development and to impose political hegemony over them.

The United States said the primary purpose of resolution 707 was to strengthen the roles of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Special Commission in eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capability and in assuring that such weapons were not reacquired. Resolution 706 was intended primarily to get humanitarian assistance to those who needed it the most in Iraq.

The United Kingdom said the time had not yet come to lift sanctions against Iraq, which had failed to live up to many of its obligations. In view of Iraq's past record, an effective UN system for monitoring oil sales and for equitably distributing humanitarian supplies was needed.

The USSR said the three resolutions were meant to secure the implementation of resolution 687 (1991). It would be in Iraq's own interest to strictly fulfil its obligations under all relevant Council resolutions. Only in that way could it turn a tragic page in its history and take a worthy place in the international community. The complete implementation of Council decisions would also bolster the UN's ability to act as a guarantor of peace and security, based on the rule of law, and would help prevent such crises both in that region and other regions of the world.

Iraq told the Council that resolution 712 perpetuated the economic siege against Iraq. Under resolutions 706 and 712, Iraq had two choices, one more bitter than the other. The first choice involved the maintenance of the state of full siege with all the concomitant suffering and starvation of the Iraqi people. The second involved a limited exception to the siege, for which Iraq would in return concede its sovereignty over its oil resources and acceptance of the hegemony of some Council members, through UN bodies, over Iraq's oil resources and prevention of Iraq from developing and manufacturing those resources.

The United States said that the resolution was a key step towards bringing the Gulf crisis to a close and towards having Iraq meet its responsibilities. The resolution would implement the international community's concern for providing humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians. The way was open for Iraqi authorities to allow that process to begin.

Compensation Fund

The Security Council on 20 May formally created the Compensation Fund from which compensation for claims against Iraq arising from its invasion and occupation of Kuwait would be paid. The Council had also decided to establish a Commission to administer the UN Compensation Fund. Under resolution 687, the Council had made the creation of the Fund one of the conditions upon which the lifting of the prohibition against the import of commodities and products originating in Iraq was contingent.

The Fund's Governing Council met for the first time in Geneva from 23 July to 2 August. Composed of representatives of the 15 members of the Security Council, the Governing Council is the principal organ of the Commission, responsible for administering the Fund and establishing guidelines for presenting and evaluating claims arising out of "direct losses, damage, including environmental damage and the depletion of natural resources, or injury to foreign Governments, nationals and corporations as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait".

UN Legal Counsel Carl-August Fleischhauer reported that losses and damage were still occurring and the continued burning of scarce natural resources was causing "immeasurable risk" to the environment.

Hundreds of thousands of ordinary people had been severely victimized, he went on, including enormous numbers of foreign workers who lost their jobs, lodgings and often all their belongings as a consequence of the occupation. Those workers, who had been compelled to leave the Gulf area, became a social and economic burden to their countries of origin, which had lost the remittances of those nationals. The Governing Council should bear in mind that aspect of its task when establishing priorities.

On 25 July, the Governing Council approved guidelines for the conduct of its work. On 2 August, it adopted the criteria to expedite processing of urgent claims. It also approved United States' proposals on arrangements for ensuring payments to the Compensation Fund. Philippe Berg of Belgium is Governing Council President; Carlos Alzamora of Peru is Commission Executive Secretary.

UN Photo 158176/J. Isaac

A Kuwaiti bank reopens after the occupation ends.

Boundary Commission

The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, consisting of three independent experts, met in Geneva from 1 to 12 July and from 12 to 16 August. It authorized an independent survey and mapping of the entire border. The results were expected to be available in February 1992.

It also decided on methodology to be applied in demarcating the western portion of the border, considered material available for demarcating the eastern portion of the boundary, and decided on the approximate location of the boundary in the vicinity of Safwan in the northern section. Surveying of a wide zone around the boundary, to be undertaken jointly by national survey departments of New Zealand and Sweden, was to begin soon.

UNIKOM

The Secretary-General on 6 August reported *(S/22906)* to the Security Council on the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), established by the Council on 9 April to monitor the Iraq-Kuwait border. The situation within the area of operations remained calm, he stated, with the number of border incidents and violations decreasing. The Mission continued to receive the cooperation of all concerned in the area.

On 23 August, the Secretary-General reported *(S/22977)* that activity on the Iraq-Kuwait border had increased, with shots being fired on 14 August in the demilitarized zone. UNIKOM's Chief Military Observer, Major-General Günther

UN Photo 158385/P Sudhakarau

Chief Observer Greindl

Greindl, protested the incident to Iraqi authorities.

Other developments

On 23 August, Iraq charged *(S/22974)* that "the massive destruction wrought by the United States and its allies on Iraq's civilian facilities and infrastructure in the course of their military operations" clearly demonstrated the United States' "unlawful use" of the "cover of international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions in order to destroy an entire people".

On 2 August, Kuwait said *(A/45/1047-S/22890)* Iraq had not abandoned its expansionist and hostile policies towards Kuwait and the region. The Council should maintain its determination and resolve to oblige Iraq fully and scrupulously to abide by international decisions.

On 28 August, Kuwait alleged *(S/22990)* that Iraqi forces, in a premeditated and planned action, had that day attacked the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan with heavy weapons. The island is three kilometres outside the demilitarized zone (DMZ). It stated that 43 attackers were taken prisoner and seven Iraqi boats were destroyed.

On 29 August, Iraq said *(S/22993)* that Kuwait's claim of infiltration was "a fabrication without any foundation", intended to "perpetuate the blockade of Iraq, to secure a stranglehold on its people and to create confusion" as to Iraq's full compliance with Council resolutions.

On 3 September, the Secretary-General reported *(S/23000)* that UNIKOM, after investigating the Bubiyan incident, neither found evidence of firing at the location nor was shown evidence that there had been weapons on the Iraqi boats.

On 16 September, Iraq called *(S/23042)* for the establishment of a fact-finding commission to investigate reports that Iraqi soldiers had been buried alive by United States forces during the military operations carried out in accordance with Council resolution 678 (1991).

'Tested as never before'

On 2 July, the Secretary-General told the German Foreign Policy Society in Bonn, Germany, that in recent months the UN had been tested as never before in its handling of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. While the Organization had proven itself capable of fulfilling one of the most serious responsibilities devolving on it from the Charter, namely, the reversal of international aggression, an undoubtedly high cost had been exacted in human and economic terms.

"In all honesty, we must admit that the mechanism for collective preventive diplomacy failed to avert the crisis. Many lessons will have to be drawn from this for the manner in which the world body must deal with such crises, should they occur in the future", he stated.

UN Photo 158387/J Isaac

UNIKOM observers in the DMZ.

Region faces 'enormous challenge' in recovering from Gulf war

The region affected by the Persian Gulf crisis "continues to face an enormous challenge in its attempt to recover from the ravages of war", a new UN report states.

The 59-page document, released on 15 July, was prepared by a mission headed by Sadruddin Aga Khan, the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for the UN Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey border areas. The mission visited Iraq from 29 June to 13 July.

The military action to restore Kuwaiti sovereignty was carried out by a coalition of nations against Iraq from 16 January to 28 February. The Security Council had authorized the use of "all necessary means" to uphold and implement its resolutions aimed at ending Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and "to restore international peace and security in the area".

The mission reported *(S/22799)* that the "tragic consequences of conflict, the untold loss of life and destruction were compounded by massive displacements of ill-prepared populations, by ecological disasters of unprecedented magnitude, by the collapse of the structures that sustain life in today's human societies". The effect on Iraq was "leading to the gradual but inexorable collapse of essential services" and to the "risk of a humanitarian crisis whose eventual dimensions would dwarf today's difficulties".

Sadruddin Aga Khan said the mission was "neither crying wolf nor playing politics". But it was evident that for large numbers of Iraqi people, "every passing month brings them closer to the brink of calamity. As usual, it is the poor, the children, the widowed and the elderly, the most vulnerable amongst the population, who are the first to suffer."

Internal conflicts had also led to displacement in March and April of an estimated 400,000 persons to the Turkish border and approximately 1.2 million towards and into Iran.

The impact of economic and financial sanctions imposed on Iraq was "very substantial" on both its economy and the living conditions of civilians, it was reported. The last food reserves were being exhausted.

An estimated 2.5 million Iraqis had no access to the government water supply system. There were growing threats to health and environment. The single most critical health-care problem in Iraq was reported to be a high incidence of severe malnutrition and chronic diarrhoea in children under five years. There were also outbreaks of typhoid, hepatitis, meningitis, cholera and polio, as well as critical shortages of vital medicines. Electricity production was about 40 per cent of the 1990 level. Oil export capacity was only one third of the pre-war level. The telecommunication system could handle only 30 per cent of its pre-war internal service.

The report concluded: "Humanitarian and political interests converge in the aversion of catastrophe. It is clearly imperative that Iraq's 'essential civilian needs' be met urgently and that rapid agreement be secured on the mechanism whereby Iraq's own resources be used to fund them to the satisfaction of the international community."

A make-shift tent at the Abdaly refugee camp, Kuwait.

UN Photo 158127/J Isaac

UN Photo 178159/E Debebe

Bader al-Omar *(centre)* of the Kuwaiti National Committee on Prisoners of War at a New York press conference on 24 September.

Special mission

The Executive Delegate on 3 July reported on a special fact-finding mission dispatched to southern Iraq to look into the situation of displaced groups in the marshlands of that region. The mission reported a substantial military presence and activity, directed against the people of the area. On 11 July, Sadruddin Aga Khan also visited the area.

On 18 July, clashes took place between Kurds and the Iraqi military in Suleimaniya and Arbil, with estimated casualties ranging up to 500. The Executive Delegate had urged restraint on both sides. By month's end, more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers, who were being held captive following continuing clashes in the area, were handed over to Iraqi authorities through the ICRC.

On 9 September, Sadruddin Aga Khan expressed concern over more serious clashes in northern Iraq between Government and non-Government forces. The incidents threatened to impede "any meaningful humanitarian endeavour", he said. He again appealed for maximum restraint so that the "essential humanitarian objectives can be realized".

On 10 July, Iraq complained *(S/22780)* that the Security Council was not fulfilling its mandate under resolution 687 (1991), which provides for a review, every 60 days, of the list of articles covered by the embargo. The humanitarian situation had gone beyond legally acceptable limits, Iraq stated.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 19 July issued a "special alert" to donors to meet the immediate food needs of Iraq. FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma urged that "suitable arrangements" be worked out so that Iraq could purchase basic food imports for 1991-1992.

Prisoners, property

On 8 August, Kuwait reported *(S/22921)* that Iraq still held 2,479 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti citizens who were either imprisoned or detained. The Secretary-General was asked to secure their release.

Iraq informed the Secretary-General *(S/22992)* on 29 August that since March it had repatriated 6,328 Kuwaitis and five non-Kuwaiti nationals under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Kuwait impeded the return of other Kuwaitis on the pretext that verification procedures had not been completed, Iraq said.

Beginning 5 August, Iraq turned over 3,216 gold bricks to Kuwait at the Iraqi-Saudi border, through a special UN team. The transfer involved weighing the bricks. Banknotes and coins were also returned.

Iraq on 10 September began returning valuable items removed from Kuwait's national library. The hand-over of some 120,000 books and manuscripts took place on the Saudi border in the presence of UN officials. Other items taken from Kuwait's National Museum were also to be returned. Iraq was also to return Kuwaiti aircraft engines and spare parts.

On 2 August, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the UN's commitment to helping Kuwaitis repair the war damage.

In a statement issued on the first anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Secretary-General said that "relief that the invasion has been reversed is tempered by the awareness of the enormous tasks now confronting Kuwait and other countries of the region that were adversely affected by the crisis".

He stressed that "in the face of continuing suffering by millions of innocent people, various agencies of the United Nations family are working in conjunction with many non-governmental and humanitarian organizations to offer emergency relief and to assist in the process of reconstruction and development".

It was his heartfelt wish, he added, that lasting peace would be established in the region, leading to a new era of justice and harmony, based on UN Charter principles.

Secretary-General recommends establishment of UN Advance Mission In Cambodia (UNAMIC)

UN Photo 178639/M Grant

The Security Council on 16 October adopted resolution 717 (1991) establishing UNAMIC. *(Details in Issue 1, 1992.)*

On 30 September, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar recommended the establishment of a United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) to assist the Cambodian parties to maintain a cease-fire and help them address and resolve any cease-fire violations.

UNAMIC would begin operations as soon as the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict was signed, he reported *(S/23097)*.

Negotiations on the draft Agreement had reached an advanced stage. The draft Agreement was reported in a 26 November 1990 communiqué of the five permanent members of the Security Council—China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, United States—and the two Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia (PCC). The text was communicated to the Secretary-General by the Co-Chairmen on 8 January 1991.

The agreed draft text included an agreement with annexes dealing with: a proposed mandate for a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC); withdrawal, cease-fire, and related measures; elections; repatriation of refugees and displaced persons; and principles for a new constitution, an agreement

on international guarantees, and a declaration on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

The Secretary-General also reported that encouraging progress had been made in negotiations on a comprehensive political settlement to "the long and cruel conflict in Cambodia".

To maintain momentum

UNAMIC's deployment, he said, would help maintain the momentum and reduce the risk of the process being disturbed by "untoward developments" in Cambodia. It would also demonstrate the UN's determination to "help the Cambodian parties and people resolve their differences in a peaceful and democratic manner".

The Secretary-General stated at consultations in New York on 20 and 21 September with the PCC Co-Chairmen and the Council's permanent members that an advance mission could be envisaged as the first stage of the good offices mechanism foreseen in the draft Agreements.

UNAMIC would consist of civilian liaison staff, military liaison officers, a military mine-awareness unit and the necessary support personnel. Member States would provide the military personnel.

The Mission, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said, under the command of the UN, would be led in the field by a civilian Chief Liaison Officer, appointed by the Secretary-General, who would exercise authority over all UNAMIC elements.

The military elements would be commanded by a Senior Military Liaison Officer, designated by the Secretary-General with Council consent. The Senior Military Liaison Officer would report to the Secretary-General through the Chief Liaison Officer.

The Mission's mandate would extend from the signing of the Comprehensive Political Settlement Agreements until the establishment of UNTAC by the Security Council and the adoption of its budget by the General Assembly.

Then, UNAMIC would be absorbed into UNTAC and its good offices functions would be expanded by UNTAC during the first phase of the cease-fire.

The Chief Liaison Officer, assisted by the civilian staff, would also be responsible for liaison with the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia on preparations for UNTAC deployment and on other matters related to the UN role in implementing the Agreement.

The SNC is described in the draft Agreements as the "unique legitimate body and source of authority" in which national sovereignty and unity would be enshrined during the transitional period in Cambodia. The Council was formed in September 1990 following lengthy political negotiations. It is composed of representative individuals of all shades of opinion among the people of Cambodia.

UN Photo 141086/J Isaac

Refugees: Their plight alleviated?

UNAMIC's military component would facilitate communications between the military headquarters of the four Cambodian parties in matters relating to the cease-fire, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated.

UNAMIC headquarters would be in Phnom Penh and liaison teams would be sent to the general military headquarters of each Cambodian party. It would have its own communications network linking its headquarters and five liaison teams. It would use its good offices to resolve difficulties, restore the status quo and determine measures to avoid any recurrence of violations.

UNAMIC would also deploy small teams of military personnel experienced in training civilians on how to avoid injury from mines or booby traps.

The Secretary-General stressed that UNAMIC would need to be assured of the cooperation at all times of all Cambodian parties. It would have to have freedom of movement and communication, and the other rights and facilities necessary for the performance of its tasks. The Mission and its personnel would also have to be granted all relevant privileges and immunities provided for by the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the UN.

UNAMIC would require eight civilian liaison staff, 50 military liaison officers, 20 other military personnel to form the mine-awareness unit, and some 75 international and 75 local civilian support staff. In addition, a military communications unit and an air unit of four utility helicopters and one fixed-wing aircraft would be needed.

UNAMIC would be deployed progressively and in phases, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated.

Survey mission

The Secretary-General said that a survey mission, headed by his Military Adviser, Major-General Timothy Dibuama, had visited the region from 19 August to 4 September in connection with military matters and the establishment of a mine-awareness programme in Cambodia.

The mission reported that the modalities for the control of the cease-fire and the cessation of outside military assistance had already been worked out and were described in an annex to the draft Agreement. It was not yet possible for the mission to evaluate the manner in which those modalities should be implemented because certain Cambodian parties were unable to provide some of the information which would be needed, and because the mission was not in a position to obtain other necessary information.

It was also unable to begin concrete preparations for the implementation of the military aspects of the mandate foreseen for UNTAC once a comprehensive agreement was concluded. The mission said the mine-awareness programme initially should be concentrated in the north-western part of Cambodia and areas likely to be resettled by refugees on their return. The Secretary-General proposed that such a programme could best be provided by a small team of military personnel, who would form part of UNAMIC.

Significant progress

Meanwhile, the five permanent members of the Security Council had held three meetings (17-18 July in Beijing; 29-30 August in Pattaya, Thailand; 20-21 September in New York) with the two PCC

Co-Chairmen. The SNC convened on 16 and 17 July in Beijing and from 26 to 29 August in Pattaya.

Following the Pattaya meeting in August, the "Big Five" and the Co-Chairmen reported that significant progress had been made on national reconciliation efforts for Cambodia.

In a joint communiqué *(A/46/418-S/23011)*, it was noted that the Five and the Co-Chairmen had held, for the first time, a joint meeting with the SNC on 29 August. They expressed satisfaction with the progress towards a comprehensive political settlement made at the SNC Pattaya meeting in August, noting their consensus on how to resolve "some very important remaining difficulties".

The Five and the Co-Chairmen recalled that they had consistently envisaged a detailed plan for the phased return to civilian life of all categories of forces of the Cambodian parties. They viewed such an arrangement as essential to minimizing the risk of a return to warfare, stabilizing the security situation and building confidence among the parties, thus ensuring the best possible prospects for the durability of the settlement. Such an arrangement remained their fundamental commitment.

They would support the formula devised by the SNC, which provided for demobilization before the elections of 70 per cent of all forces and their arms, subject to certain understandings. The SNC was urged to reflect further on the question of total demobilization, preferably prior to the el ions.

The Five and the Co-Chairmen considered of great importance the SNC decision to give the final word to SNC President Prince Norodom Sihanouk on how to advise UNTAC on implementation of the Agreement when consensus was unattainable within the SNC. They would consider further the implications of that decision on the relationship between UNTAC and the SNC.

They also noted the SNC declaration that Cambodia would adopt a system of liberal, multi-party democracy, and its decision to promote and encourage respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The SNC was urged to reach a common position as soon as possible on the issue of the electoral system.

The Five and the Co-Chairmen agreed to give sympathetic consideration to the SNC proposal requesting the UN Secretary-General to send observers to Cambodia. The SNC was urged to resolve issues needed to conclude a comprehensive political settlement so that the Security Council could dispatch a UN observer force.

They also wanted the PCC to be reconvened at the ministerial level by late October and the Comprehensive Settlement Agreement to be signed before the SNC established itself at Phnom Penh in mid-November.

In a communiqué *(A/45/508-S/23087)* issued after the September meeting in New York, the Five and the Co-Chairman noted the SNC decision on the issue of the electoral system, which provided for national elections throughout Cambodia on a provincial basis, in accordance with a system of proportional representation.

They welcomed the decision of all Cambodian parties to provide the UN Secretariat with detailed information on their military forces at an early date to facilitate the process of preparing for the military aspects of UNTAC.

The process of creating a comprehensive settlement agreement for Cambodia seemed to have entered its final phase, they noted, thus bringing closer to realization the goal of national reconciliation and lasting peace in that country.

UN Photo 178131/J Bu

SNC President Sihanouk.

A neutral conciliator

After the SNC informal meeting in July in Beijing, Prince Sihanouk was recognized as the "sole Cambodian statesman in a position to achieve national reconciliation among all Cambodians and to speed up the peace process towards a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict and towards the restoration of an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, non-aligned and united Cambodia within her territorial integrity".

In a final communiqué *(A/46/310-S/22808)*, it was noted that Prince Sihanouk, to implement fully his role as SNC President, would resign as President of both the Cambodian National Resistance and the National Government of Cambodia. He had decided "from now on, to stand neutral acting as a conciliator, without belonging to any faction or political party".

The UN was asked to send a survey mission to "evaluate the modalities of control and an appropriate number of United Nations personnel to control the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military aids in cooperation with the SNC Military Working Group". (In June, the SNC had decided to implement an unlimited

cease-fire and to stop receiving foreign military assistance.)

Six officials were appointed to the SNC secretariat, which began its work in August at the former Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok, pending the installation of the SNC headquarters in Phnom Penh.

An operational SNC working group was set up to draft the SNC rules of procedure, the principles of the new Constitution of Cambodia and the electoral laws, and to examine the modalities of the installation of SNC headquarters in Phnom Penh.

The Secretary-General was asked for assistance to facilitate the repatriation of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons and to establish a mine-awareness programme in Cambodia and in the refugee camps along the Cambodian border.

At the meeting, it was also decided to set up a working group on repatriation that would closely work with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for the preparatory work of repatriation, such as setting up refugee transit centres, warehouses and road access.

UN Photo 66059/LB/pf

New opportunity

After the July meeting of the Five and the PCC Co-Chairmen in Beijing, a communiqué *(A/46/340-S/22889)* was issued stating that a new situation and opportunity to bring lasting peace to Cambodia had been created. If the SNC was able to reach consensus on a comprehensive political settlement, the PCC could reconvene to adopt and endorse such an agreement, which would then be referred to the UN for approval and implementation.

The SNC decision to implement an unlimited cease-fire and stop receiving foreign military assistance was welcomed by the Five and the PCC Co-Chairmen, the communiqué stated. All concerned were called upon to do likewise.

Aid programme

A $12-million aid programme to provide humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance and to strengthen the technical skills of Cambodians was approved on 17 September by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). It is the first time in 15 years that a UN organization has provided such aid to Cambodia. Since the mid-1970s, UN aid to that country had been limited to humanitarian assistance, following the civil and political crises there.

UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III said the commitment was made in response to the economic and political changes under way in Cambodia.

New pledges amounting to $6.4 million for the UN Border Relief Operation and programmes assisting displaced persons in Cambodia were made on 5 September, at a meeting of donors to the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes. In-kind contributions valued at $1.1 million were also pledged.

On 23 July, a UN official said that the Government of Cambodia had decided, during the course of its first plenary on 24 June, to adopt a new flag and anthem. The flag had been described unofficially as being "United Nations blue", with a map of Cambodia and Khmer inscriptions.

UN plan for Western Sahara is launched

Military observers stationed at 10 posts

UN Photo

UN observers arriving in Western Sahara.

The UN settlement plan for Western Sahara was launched on 6 September, with a formal cease-fire between the forces of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO) and the stationing of UN military observers at 10 observation posts.

Through extensive patrols by land and air, the military observers were to ensure observance of the cease-fire and the cessation of military activities, and ultimately monitor confinement of Moroccan and POLISARIO troops at designated locations.

By mid-September, the Security Council had endorsed the stationing of some 200 military observers and the staff necessary for command and control functions, logistical support, communications, air transport and medical support.

The dispatch of the team is the first stage of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, known by its French acronym MINURSO. The Mission was formally established by the Council on 29 April to oversee implementation of the UN settlement plan, which details how a referendum on the future of Western Sahara should be organized. The people of the Territory are to choose between integration with Morocco and independence.

On 5 September, the day before the cease-fire, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reiterated the vital importance of parties abiding by their commitments and halting completely all their military operations, including troop movements and reinforcements, as well as acts of violence or intimidation that might compromise the plan's implementation.

The month before the cease-fire was marked by some worrisome developments. The Secretary-General expressed concern over reports of renewed military action in Western Sahara.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar on 9 August appealed to all concerned to refrain from any action which would endanger the implementation of the UN plan or jeopardize the existing truce.

On 13 August, the OAU joined in the appeal, expressing hope that the referendum would be held as planned.

The Secretary-General on 27 August, after meeting in Geneva with a POLISARIO representative, expressed confidence that the situation would "calm down".

Proposal approved

The Security Council on 9 July approved a proposal from the Secretary-General that MINURSO's military component be composed of units from 36 countries.

The 36 countries are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Congo, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela.

A central element of the settlement plan is the identification and registration of all Western Saharans eligible to vote in the referendum. This work has been entrusted to an Identification Commission. On 25 July 1991, it was announced that the Commission had completed the first step of its work, revising the 1974 Western Saharan census list, a copy of which had been given to the two parties in October 1990. As revised, the new list contains 70,204 names.

The revised list will be published in the Territory and in places outside where numbers of Western Saharans are known to be living, along with instructions on how individual Western Saharans can apply in writing, before a specified date, for inclusion in the list on the grounds that they were omitted from the 1974 census. After review of the applications by the Commission, a consolidated list of the names of persons who have been judged eligible to vote will be published.

The Commission will have also to identify and issue registration cards to persons whose names are on the consolidated list, and provide for appeals against non-inclusion of names in this list. A final voters list authorized by the Secretary-General will be published and the repatriation programme could begin. Upon the completion of this programme, the referendum campaign will start.

On 31 July, in a recorded message, Johannes J. Manz, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, told hundreds of staff members gathered at Headquarters for a briefing on MINURSO that the Mission would need "strength, imagination and flexibility" from the staff, who would have to be "completely impartial". MINURSO's main concern, he stated, was the people of Western Sahara and their right to self-determination.

Security Council endorses Secretary-General's intentions to resume discussions on Cyprus

The Security Council on 11 October endorsed the Secretary-General's intentions to resume discussions in early November with the two parties in Cyprus and with Greece and Turkey, to complete a set of ideas of an overall framework agreement on Cyprus.

In unanimously adopting resolution 716 (1991), the Council considered that convening a high-level meeting to be chaired by the Secretary-General, in which the two communities and Greece and Turkey would participate, represented an effective mechanism for concluding an overall framework agreement.

The leaders of the two communities and Greece and Turkey were asked to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his representatives, so that the high-level international meeting could be convened before the end of 1991. The Secretary-General was asked to report in November to the Council on whether sufficient progress had been made to convene the high-level meeting and, should conditions not be ripe, to convey to the Council "the set of ideas as they will have evolved by that time with his assessment of the situation".

The Council reaffirmed that the fundamental principles of a Cyprus settlement were: the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus; the exclusion of union in whole or in part with any other country and any form of partition or secession; and the establishment of a new constitutional arrangement for Cyprus that would ensure the well-being and security of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation.

It also reaffirmed that its position on the solution to the Cyprus problem was based on one State of Cyprus, comprising two politically equal communities as defined by the Secretary-General in the eleventh paragraph of Annex I to his 8 March 1990 report *(S/21183)*. The parties were called upon to adhere fully to those principles and negotiate within their framework without introducing concepts that were at variance with them.

It also reaffirmed that the Secretary-General's mission of good offices was with the two communities whose participation in the process was on an equal footing.

In his 8 October report *(S/23121)*, the Secretary-General stated that his representatives had held separate meetings with the leaders of the two communities from 26 to 29 August and from 7 to 14 September. As a result of those meetings, both leaders had agreed to proceed directly to completing an overall framework agreement.

He also stated that he would ask his representatives to resume in early November their discussions with the two sides in Cyprus and Greece and Turkey to finalize the set of ideas. He hoped that a high-level international meeting could be convened before the end of the year.

'Gordian knot untied'

Deadlock on El Salvador situation may be broken

UN Photo 178192/J. Bu

Meeting between El Salvador and FMLN at UN in New York, 25 September.

The Security Council on 30 September reaffirmed its strong support for the urgent completion of the peace process in El Salvador and expressed its readiness to support the implementation of a settlement. The Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) were urged at the next negotiating round to proceed urgently in reaching a cease-fire and an overall settlement of the armed conflict.

In unanimously adopting resolution 714 (1991), the Council also urged both sides to exercise maximum and continuing restraint, particularly with respect to the civilian population, in order to create the best climate for a successful conclusion of the negotiations.

Both sides were called upon to continue to cooperate fully with the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, known by its Spanish acronym ONUSAL.

The Council action came just days after Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar announced that the Government of El Salvador and FMLN had signed on 25 September a "broad agreement on conditions and guarantees for the reintegration into society of members of the FMLN".

"It is my firm expectation that this agreement will break the deadlock in the negotiations", the Secretary-General stated.

Efforts on all pending substantive matters and a "brief, dynamic cease-fire" would resume shortly, he added. "The goal set when I asked President (Alfredo) Cristiani and the five members of the General Command of the FMLN to meet with me for consultations at United Nations Headquarters has thus been met—the Gordian knot has been untied", the Secretary-General concluded.

A series of meetings began at Headquarters on 16 September between President Cristiani and his delegations, five FMLN commanders and the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto. It climaxed an 18-month-old negotiating process under UN auspices.

The negotiations began in September 1989 when the two parties agreed to initiate a dialogue aimed at ending the armed conflict in El Salvador by political means.

Under the 25 September agreement (to be known as the New

York Agreement), which complements earlier accords on human rights protection and political reform, the parties agreed that:

- The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, known by its Spanish acronym COPAZ, will oversee the carrying-out of the accords. It will consist of two members each from the Government and the FMLN, with another six members named by political parties holding seats in the Legislative Assembly. The Roman Catholic Church and ONUSAL will have the role of observers.
- The armed forces will be "purified" on the basis of evaluation of its members by an ad hoc commission. Two army officers would take part in the deliberations, without a vote.
- In principle, the size of the army would be reduced, although the numbers and details were still to be negotiated.

FMLN members would be able to seek appointment to a new civilian-controlled police force without discrimination, and the Government would protect the right of families to hold on to the land they had occupied.

President Cristiani predicted an end to El Salvador's 11-year-old civil war by the end of 1991. He said only a handful of issues, mainly having to do with the reform and reduction of the armed forces, remained undecided before a cease-fire. According to him, there was already consensus on some of them.

"We have been able to clear the road so that the process can proceed with a lot more speed and agility", he stated, adding that the remaining issues to be addressed constitute a "compressed agenda" of difficult but soluble disputes.

Schafik Handal, one of five FMLN commanders, said the agreement was of "great transcendence", constituting "a new victory for democracy in El Salvador". It represented social and political advances made possible by the civil war.

Framework for negotiations

On 30 August, Mr. de Soto told reporters in New York that the framework for negotiations was provided by the Geneva Agreement of April 1990, and a calendar for negotiations was laid out by the Caracas Agenda of May 1990 in two stages—the first, to reach political agreements leading to a cease-fire; and the second, to negotiate reintegration of FMLN members into society.

"Remarkable achievements", he said, had already been made with agreements on human rights, constitutional reforms, the judiciary, the armed forces, the electoral system, as well as the establishment of a "Commission on Truth".

On 1 August, the United States and the USSR submitted to the Secretary-General a joint communiqué supporting his efforts and suggesting that he personally get involved in the negotiations.

ONUSAL launched

On 16 September, ONUSAL (Observadores de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador) issued its first report *(A/45/1055-S/23037)*. The Mission was authorized up to June 1992 by the Security Council *(resolution 693 (1991) of 20 May)* to verify the observance of human rights in that country.

Philippe Texier, Director of ONUSAL's Human Rights Division, stated that the persistence of the armed conflict in El Salvador and its recent escalation were creating a considerable amount of tension affecting the fundamental rights of the people. The absence of a cease-fire was complicating the Mission's verification task in a variety of ways.

On 26 July 1991—exactly one year after the signing in San José, Costa Rica, of the Agreement on Human Rights between El Salvador and FMLN—ONUSAL was launched in San Salvador to verify fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by both parties to respect and promote human rights in El Salvador.

"There are high expectations among Salvadorians that our presence

UNICEF 1113/85/D B. Grey

El Salvadorans await social and political change.

will help to improve the situation in El Salvador", said Iqbal Riza, ONUSAL's Chief of Mission, adding that the Mission would not only observe and report on the human rights situation, but also investigate and resolve cases.

"We will work with the Government on one side, and with the FMLN on the other side", stated Mr. Riza who functions as the Secretary-General's Special Delegate.

The Mission has chosen as its slogan "Human rights—the way to peace".

ONUSAL is to be deployed in two phases. During the first phase, about 60 days, central offices and four regional offices (San Salvador, San Miguel, Santa Ana and San Vicente) were established. In addition, two subregional offices—in Chalatenango and Usulután—were inaugurated. The Mission familiarized itself with El Salvador's administrative, legal and judicial systems and established working contacts and procedures.

In the second phase, tentatively scheduled for October 1991, ONUSAL would actively monitor the human rights situation in El Salvador, investigate specific cases of alleged human rights violations, promote human rights and recommend ways to eliminate violations, and report to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Spain and Venezuela have provided military personnel to the ONUSAL operation.

Meetings on Guatemala

Two new rounds of talks (22-26 July and 19-21 September) were held in Mexico between Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), aimed at ending the internal armed conflict in Guatemala and bringing about national reconciliation.

Both rounds were held in the presence of the Conciliator, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, also Chairman of Guatemala's National Reconciliation Commission, and Francesc Vendrell, representing the Secretary-General as a UN Observer.

The July round dealt with the first general agenda item—democratization and human rights—agreed in Mexico on 26 April, while the September round centred on human rights.

Declaration of San Salvador

In a meeting to establish appropriate institutional machinery for the effective attainment of Central American integration in the political, economic, social and cultural domains, the Presidents of six Cental American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama—adopted on 17 July the "Declaration of San Salvador" at the tenth Summit of Central American Presidents (15-17 July, San Salvador).

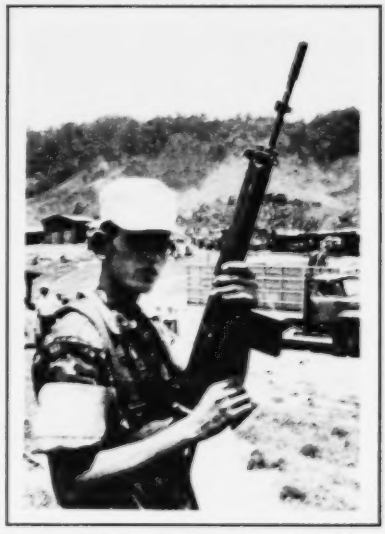
In the text *(A/45/1039-S/22828)*, the Presidents took account of the results of endeavours undertaken in the quest for peace and the economic and social welfare of their peoples, through respect for human rights, national reconciliation and dialogue, consolidation of democracy and the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as of machinery to promote a climate of confidence, cooperation and security. They considered that the recent global transformations offered new prospects for integration in the region and a new international order for Central America.

The Presidents also vigorously condemned violence, terrorism and acts of destabilization against the democratic process, as well as the use of violence for political ends. They called, "for the good of Central America" and with UN verification, for the disarmament and demobilization of the FMLN, so that it might join fully in El Salvador's civil, institutional and political life.

The beginning of the preparatory work for the establishment of the Central American Parliament was approved. The United States was urged to speed negotiations on free-trade agreements with Central American countries. Canada was urged to participate in trade liberalization arrangements which the United States and Mexico had offered.

Honduran request

On 6 August, Honduras asked the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to urgently establish observation posts along its border with Nicaragua. It said armed incidents had occurred recently in which Sandinist Army personnel had clashed with elements opposed to the Nicaraguan Government. Observation posts would prevent the entry of these elements coming from Nicaragua "which are seeking to destabilize that country's Government".



UN Photo 157599/S. Johansen

An ONUCA observer receiving surrendered arms.

Intention of US, USSR to discontinue weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides welcomed

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 13 September welcomed the announcement in Moscow by the Soviet Union and the United States of their intention to discontinue weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides, effective 1 January 1992.

Such a decision, he said, represented a major contribution towards implementing a key provision of his 21 May 1991 five-point statement, which suggested elements of a political settlement of the Afghan problem that could bring stability to Afghanistan.

The decision, he stated, would also give impetus to current efforts to achieve a political solution. All others concerned should take similar action in that direction, the Secretary-General urged.

Afghan Prime Minister Fazl-Ul Haq Khaliqyar on 25 September in New York said that the joint decision strengthened hopes for peace in Afghanistan. He expected that other countries involved in the conflict would also end the arms supply, as discontinuation by the USSR and the United States was not enough to bring about peace. The UN, he suggested, might set up a monitoring mechanism on Afghanistan's borders with the Soviet Union, Pakistan and Iran to control weapons shipments.

UN Photo 178224/M. Grant

Afghanistan Prime Minister: Hopes for peace strengthened.

Islamabad meeting

On 30 July, following a two-day meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, a joint declaration was issued by Iran's Foreign Minister, Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Secretary-General and leaders of the Afghan Mujahideen parties, stating there were "positive elements" in the 21 May statement. "After necessary clarifications", the statement could be considered for a comprehensive solution acceptable to Afghans.

The declaration also stated that any solution should lead to the replacement of the "present illegal Government in Kabul" and the establishment of an elected Islamic Government acceptable to Afghans. The Mujahideen parties envisaged a future Afghanistan to be "Islamic, non-aligned, an abode of peace and an important contributor to tranquillity and stability of the region, committed to a policy of mutual friendship and cooperation with its neighbours".

From 10 to 13 September in Teheran, the Secretary-General met with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati, during which time he reviewed the Afghanistan situation.

He also met with leaders of Mujahideen groups based in Peshawar, Sibghatullah Mujadidi and Pir Sayed Ahmed Gailani, as well as with the leader of the Iran-based Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, Hajatoislam Rahmutullah Mortazavi. The Mujahideen representatives pledged full support for the five-point statement. The Secretary-General stressed the

need for a political solution and to avoid military action which could only bring about bloodshed.

In Teheran, the Secretary-General also met with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and termed their talks "fruitful", covering all aspects of the Afghan question. The President reaffirmed his Government's commitment to a speedy political settlement.

On 13 September in Jeddah, the Secretary-General also held talks on Afghanistan with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Foreign Minister Prince Saud El-Faisal. The Secretary-General briefed them on his efforts towards a political settlement of the Afghan question.

He also had talks with the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Hamid Algabid, and the Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates).

Lack of resources

Fifty-seven current projects of "Operation Salam"—a programme of emergency relief and rehabilitation in Afghanistan—have been either abandoned or scaled down because of lack of resources, it was announced on 30 July. The Operation, begun in May 1988, is implemented by UN agencies, volunteers and local and international non-governmental organizations.

The Operation's 1991 budget, originally set at $136 million, has been cut by $31 million.

UN Photo 177534/J. Isaac

Benon Sevan: No immediate end in sight.

Benon Sevan, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Administrator of Operation Salam, said: "With no immediate end in sight to the conflict in this sorely troubled country, as well as with developments and compelling humanitarian needs in other parts of the world, the international community has become increasingly immune to the war in Afghanistan and the suffering of its people."

Some major donors, he went on, had indicated that they would not commit substantial new funds to help the Afghan people until there was progress in the search for a peaceful settlement. He hoped donors would reconsider their positions. Afghanistan needs international humanitarian assistance now more than ever, he said.

Iran's reconstruction to be costly

The reconstruction of the physical infrastructure of Iran, damaged during its 10-year war with Iraq, will be a costly and lengthy process, a special UN mission has reported.

Led by former Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Abby Farah, the mission in May and June visited Iran to obtain information on the nature and extent of the damage and on the status of reconstruction efforts.

In its 31 July report *(S/22863)* to the Security Council, the team said that as the war was fought for the most part on Iranian territory, the consequences on its population, economy and environment had been enormous.

The mission was impressed by the reconstruction efforts that had already been undertaken. Nonetheless, access to financing resources, foreign equipment and technology from the international community would be necessary to fully rehabilitate the country within a reasonable period of time.

Security subject of talks in Iran

Security arrangements for the Persian Gulf region were discussed during Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar's visit to Iran from 10 to 13 September. He stressed that countries of that region had to coordinate their approaches and efforts.

In talks with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati, various paragraphs of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), which remained to be fully implemented, also came under discussion.

The Iranian President informed the Secretary-General of the effects the destruction caused by the war with Iraq had had on the Iranian economy.

Resolution 598, adopted unanimously on 20 July 1987, calls for a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq; an end to all military action on land, at sea and in the air; withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries; dispatch of a team of UN observers to supervise those actions; and release and repatriation of prisoners of war.

Parties to conflict in Yugoslavia urged to settle their disputes peacefully

The Security Council on 25 September strongly urged the parties to the conflict in Yugoslavia to abide strictly by the cease-fire agreements of 17 and 22 September 1991. The 15-member body appealed urgently to all parties to settle their disputes peacefully through negotiation at the Conference on Yugoslavia, to be sponsored by the European Community.

Reuters/Bettmann

Yugoslavian Army in Croatia.

In unanimously adopting Council resolution 713 (1991) at a ministerial-level meeting, the Council, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, decided that all States should, for the purposes of establishing peace and stability in Yugoslavia, immediately implement a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to that country until the Council decided otherwise.

It also called on all States to refrain from any action which might contribute to increasing tension and impeding or delaying a peaceful and negotiated outcome to the conflict.

It supported the collective efforts of the European Community and its members, with the support of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to bring about peace and dialogue in Yugoslavia.

To that end, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar was asked to offer his assistance "without delay" and report back to the Council.

The Council met at the request of Austria, Canada and Hungary to discuss the "deteriorating situation" in Yugoslavia. In a 24 September letter *(S/23069)* to the Council President, Yugoslavia said it welcomed the decision to call a meeting.

Budimir Loncar, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, said the crisis in his country threatened peace and security on a large scale. Yugoslavia was in conflict with itself. A stable and lasting peace was what the nation needed most at that crucial point. It was the highest priority. The Yugoslav crisis was also a serious threat to the new world architecture emerging from the debris of the cold-war era.

"After all that has happened in recent years and months, Yugoslavia can no longer be simply repaired. It should now be redefined", he said. The basic principles for a solution were the unacceptability of any unilateral or forcible changes of borders, protection of and respect for the rights of all in Yugoslavia, and full recognition of all legitimate interests and aspirations.

Boris Pankin, Foreign Minister of the USSR, said the only way to resolve the Yugoslav problems, as well as the problems of many other multi-national States, was through honest negotiation and patient dialogue, so that mutually acceptable solutions could be found. A lesson to be learned from the events in Yugoslavia was the need to respect the rights of national minorities, if Europe was to avoid the experience of a stream of refugees, armed conflicts, hatred among nationalities and the destruction of people, towns and villages.

Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, said the European Community had set out certain principles for a reso-

lution of the Yugoslav crisis: the use of force and any change of borders by force were unacceptable; the rights of all who lived in Yugoslavia, including minorities, must be respected; and there was a need to take account of all legitimate concerns and aspirations. The conflict had a strong international dimension. The patchwork of nationalities and minorities throughout Central and Eastern Europe meant that full-scale war might not be confined easily to a single territory.

Roland Dumas, Foreign Minister of France, said Council members had once again shouldered a historic responsibility: a responsibility to Yugoslavia, which had accepted that assistance, to enable it to escape immediately from that vicious circle of hatred, vengeance and death; and a responsibility to the international community, since the Council had to demonstrate that it was possible to build an order of peace and cooperation without recourse to force for the settlement of disputes. Yugoslavs themselves had the primary responsibility to find solutions acceptable to all parties.

James A. Baker III, Secretary of State of the United States, said the Government of Serbia and the Yugoslav federal military bore a special and growing responsibility for the grim future which awaited the peoples of Yugoslavia if they did not stop the bloodshed and reverse the violent course being pursued. The federal military was not serving as an impartial guarantor of a cease-fire in Croatia. It had actively supported local Serbian forces in violating the cease-fire, causing death to the citizens it was constitutionally supposed to be protecting. The use of force to solve political differences or to change external or internal borders in Yugoslavia was not acceptable.

Qian Qichen, Foreign Minister of China, said the resolution should help stop the domestic armed conflict and restore peace in Yugoslavia at an early date. That was a desire shared by Yugoslav people of all nationalities. The international community must scrupulously respect the sovereignty of Yugoslavia and refrain from interfering in its internal affairs.

Alois Mock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, said the peace initiative of the European Community must be supported by all. The international community as a whole had a responsibility to end the armed conflict in Yugoslavia.

Diego Cordovez, Minister for External Relations of Ecuador, said his country did not accept modifications of borders brought about through the use of force. A peaceful solution should be sought which would not undermine the principle of the unity and territorial integrity of States.

Nathan Shamuyarira, Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, said action to be taken in the future should be in the area of humanitarian and welfare activities, to alleviate the suffering of those Yugoslavs who needed assistance.

Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister for External Relations of Cuba, hoped the cease-fire would be firmly enforced and that a conference in Yugoslavia involving all concerned parties would be successful.

Adrian Nastase, Foreign Minister of Romania, said Yugoslavia's neighbours, the other European countries and the UN had to do everything in their power to help the parties involved come to an agreement.

Madhavsingh Solanki, Minister for External Affairs of India, said the Council's deliberations related not to Yugoslavia's internal situation as such, but to its implication for peace and security in the region. Internal conflicts were for the State concerned to address. The Council's intervention became legitimate and acceptable only when any conflict it faced had serious implications for international peace and security.

Also making statements were the representatives of Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Yemen and Zaire.

UN Photo 177272/M. Grant

Street scene in Yugoslavia: Before the civil war.

'Quiet diplomacy' of Secretary-General pays off with release of hostages, prisoners

Reuters/Bettmann

British hostage John McCarthy *(left)* with UN Secretary-General in London.

A long-standing, intensive process of "quiet diplomacy" by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and his top aide on this matter paid off with the release of three Western hostages held in Lebanon, the release by Israel of 51 Lebanese prisoners and the return of the remains of nine Lebanese.

British journalist John McCarthy, detained for five years, was released on 8 August. Edward Tracy, a United States citizen held for nearly five years, was released on 11 August. Another British hostage, Jack Mann, was released on 24 September after 28 months of captivity.

On 11 September, Israel released 51 prisoners, some of whom had been held for a number of years, and turned over the bodies of nine Arab guerrillas.

On 11 August, the Secretary-General met in London with Mr. McCarthy, who delivered a letter to him from the "Islamic Jihad", which promised to release all detainees within 24 hours if the Secretary-General would make "a personal endeavour, within a comprehensive solution", to secure the release of all detainees throughout the world.

The Secretary-General called the release of both Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Tracy "expressions of goodwill". He observed: "My duty now is to maintain my efforts with the cooperation of all countries directly or indirectly concerned." He was, he said, fully committed to doing his best "until the end, in order to totally solve this humanitarian problem".

Situation reviewed

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar went from London to Geneva where he met with high-ranking Israeli officials on 14 August to discuss the hostage situation. He described the initial Israeli response as "rather positive", and added that the Israeli Foreign Minister had promised to help as much as possible.

On 12 August, the Secretary-General held a two-hour discussion on the hostage situation with Iranian Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi. Afterwards, he said Iran was trying to use its influence with different groups to obtain the freedom of hostages.

On 13 August in Geneva, the Secretary-General said that there was a basis for a swap between Israel and Lebanon with regard to hostages and detainees. The positions of both sides were known and it was up to him to bridge the gap. The Secretary-General said: "They are apart, but not that far apart. It is not an ocean, I would say a river."

In September, the Secretary-General, in discussing the hostage situation, said the UN was dealing with several groups, and negotiations were not easy. He hoped that he would be able to resolve the matter of hostages and detainees before he left office.

On 25 September, after the release of Jack Mann, the top aide to the Secretary-General on this matter said the Lebanese groups in touch with the UN had indicated "their determination to pursue their cooperation with the Secretary-General", and the fact that Mr. Mann had been released was "proof of the level of that cooperation".

On 27 September, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati said in a press conference in New York that Iran was fully committed to cooperating in the hostage negotiation process. The release of Lebanese abducted from southern Lebanon by Israel would contribute to the comprehensive hostage-release process.

Middle East Notes

UNIFIL mandate extended

The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been extended by the Security Council for a further six-month period, until 31 January 1992. The 13-year-old UN peace-keeping force, currently numbering 5,848, is commanded by Lieutenant General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden.

In resolution 701 (1991), adopted unanimously on 31 July, the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. All parties concerned were called on to cooperate fully with UNIFIL in confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring its effective authority in the area.

UN Photo 157877J Isaac

UNIFIL observers with Lebanese children.

Support voiced for peace conference on Middle East

Participants in two special UN meetings concerned with Palestinian rights have supported the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under UN auspices.

The meetings, both held in Vienna, were the eighth International Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Meeting on the Question of Palestine (28-30 August), and the fifth European Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine (26-27 August).

Participants included representatives of NGOs, Governments, organizations from Israel and the occupied territories, intergovernmental organizations, and UN specialized agencies and bodies.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in a message to the International NGO Meeting, expressed concern over the "volatile" situation in the Middle East, including the continued uprising in the occupied territories—the *intifadah*.

The President of the forty-fifth General Assembly, Guido de Marco of Malta, told the Meeting that events in the Gulf had led to accusations of "double standards" on the part of the international community in resolving outstanding issues. It was imperative that more attention and efforts be directed towards a solution of the Palestinian problem, he concluded.

Sea law body approves consortium as pioneer investor

UN Photo 151427/J Isaac

The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, at its resumed ninth session (12-30 August, New York), approved the application for registration as a pioneer investor of Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM). The Certifying States submitting the application were Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union.

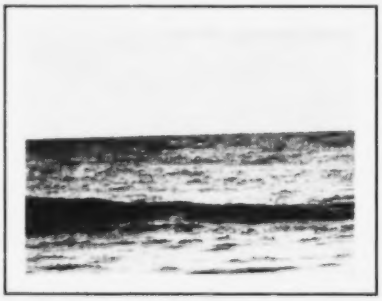
IOM is the sixth applicant to be approved as a pioneer investor in seabed mining, under the terms of Resolution II of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. It has asked for exploration rights to a 150,000-square kilometre area situated in international waters south-west of Baja California, Mexico.

France, India, Japan and the Soviet Union were named the first pioneer investors, having been registered in 1987. China's application was approved in March 1991.

Pioneer investors are assured of receiving mining contracts from the Seabed Authority after the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea enters into force. The Convention now has 49 ratifications and 2 accessions. Sixty ratifications or accessions are needed for its entry into force.

Pioneer investors are granted exclusive rights to explore designated areas of the international seabed. Their obligations include paying a $1-million annual fee to the Authority, training personnel, transferring technology to the Enterprise—the seabed mining arm of the Authority—and exploring a mine site for an Enterprise operation.

During the session, the Preparatory Commission completed a second reading of a draft agreement on the relationship between the UN and the future Authority, adopting 12 of 22 articles. These dealt with the purpose of the agreement, general matters, cooperation and coordination, relationships with the International Court of Justice, reciprocal representation, technical assistance, use of the UN *laissez-passer*, implementation of the agreement, its amendments and entry into force. The plenary also considered a paper on administrative arrangements, structure and financial implications of the Authority.



Positive direction

Acting Commission Chairman Henrique Valle of Brazil said that despite continuing difficulties, several concrete steps had been taken in a positive direction. There had been relative progress in the mandates of the four Special Commissions, which deal with land-based producer States, the Enterprise, the mining code and the Sea Law Tribunal, respectively.

A 21-member Training Panel considered the training schedules of pioneer investors, in connection with the initial manpower requirements of the Enterprise.

Traineeships, the Panel stated, should cover priority engineering disciplines, including chemical, metallurgical, electrical, electronic and mechanical mining, as well as marine geology, marine geophysics and marine ecology.

Thailand, speaking for the "Group of 77" developing countries, expressed disappointment with the outcome of the session. It called for constructive cooperation and flexibility by industrialized nations to ensure the early completion of the Preparatory Commission's tasks.

The Group was as concerned as the industrialized countries about cost-effectiveness of institutions to be created under the Convention, Thailand said. The so-called "hard core" issues, which include transfer of technology, seabed mining production policy and finance, and budgetary matters, should be resolved by both sides working together.

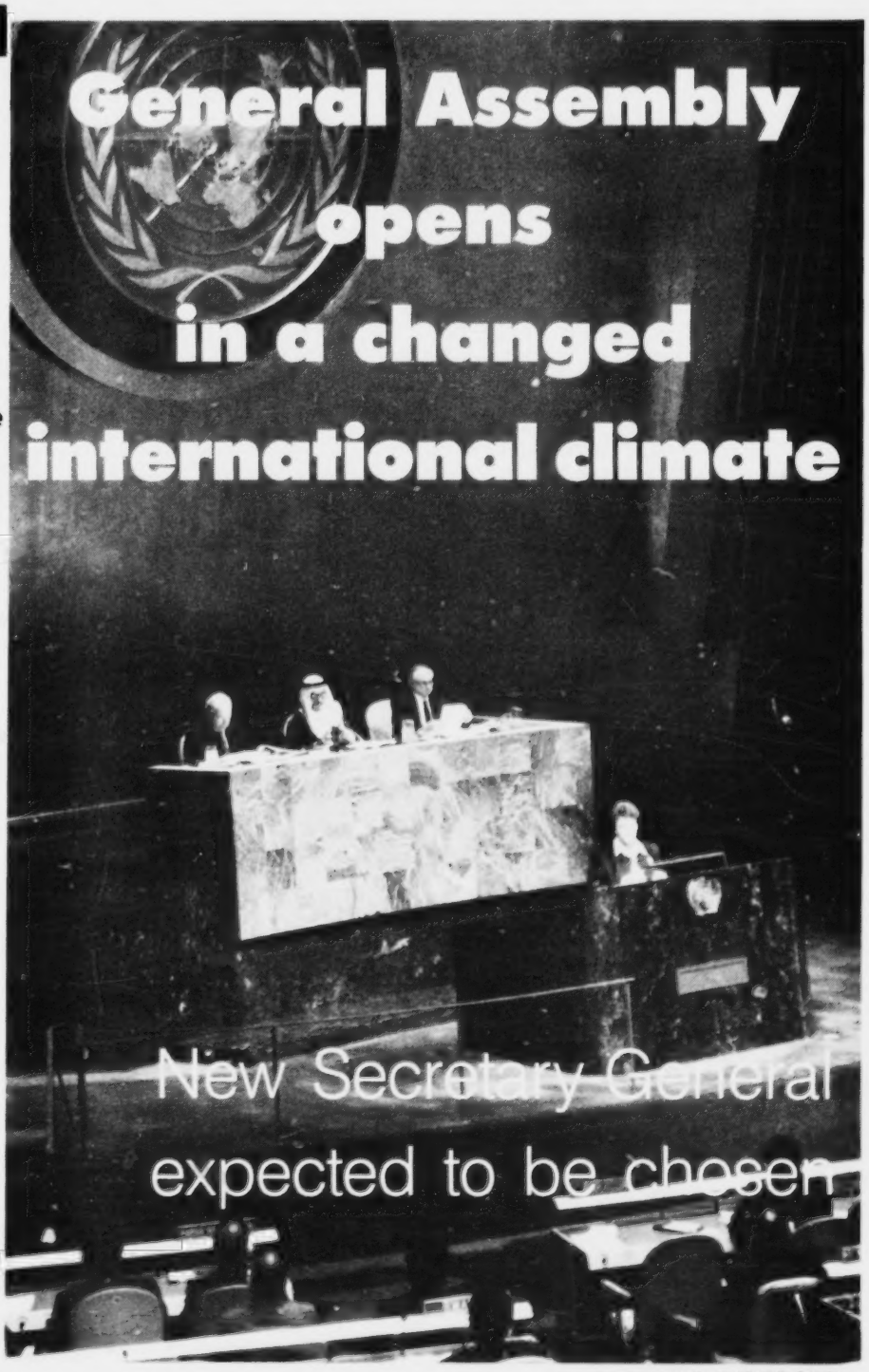
General Assembly opens in a changed international climate

'A new light'

As the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly opened on 17 September, UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar spoke of a changed international climate in 1991, which could help accelerate the solutions to ongoing crises on the world body's agenda.

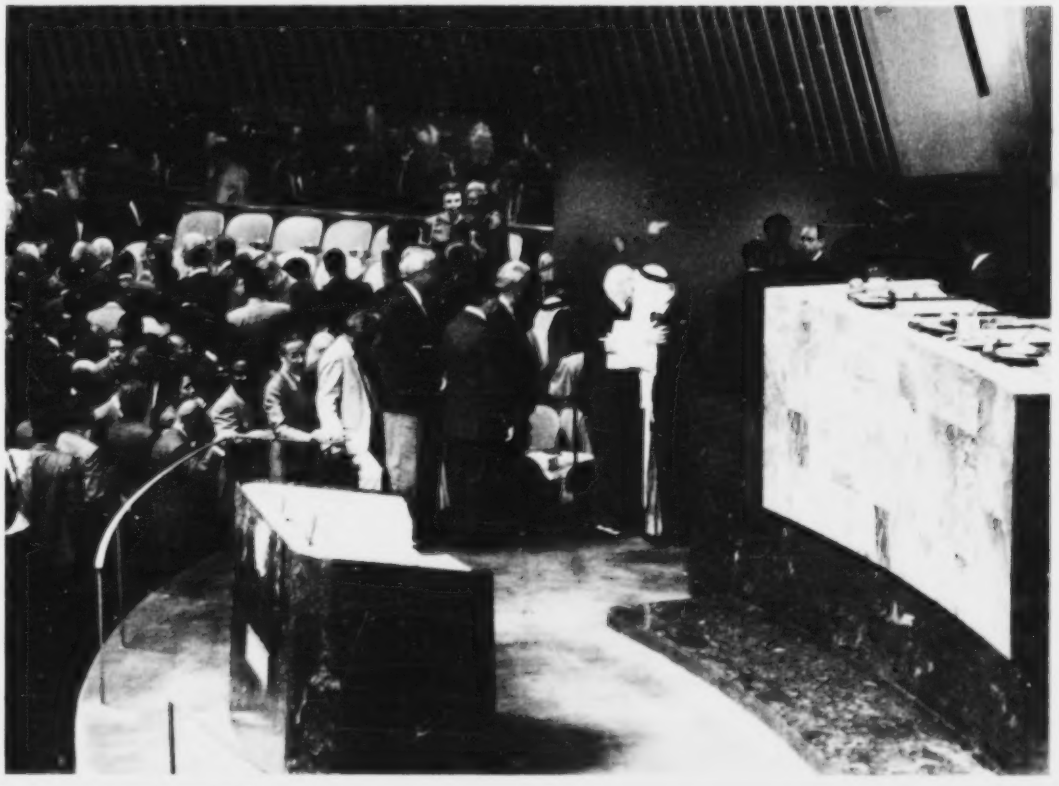
"Even if the problems are the same, there is now a new light" which perhaps could help solve those problems, the 71-year-old Chief Executive of the UN stated at a 20 September press conference in New York.

The year 1991, he reported, had been another in a series marking a great turning point in history, with a "wave of democracy" surging in a number of places and "intense yearnings" for self-determination on the increase. Events, he said, were changing the political map of a good part of the northern Eurasian landmass. It would be some time before a settled shape came into view, he stated.



UN Photo 178143/E Debebe

UN Photo 178021/E. Debebe



UN Photo 177966/M. Grant

The 46th Assembly: Finding solutions for ongoing crises.

UN Photo 178016/M. Grant

President Shihabi cites 'a historic duty'.

In his 6 September report on the state of the Organization *(A/46/1)*, the Secretary-General stressed that the UN had kept pace with the year's historic change. But the concern that Charter principles should govern the emerging international order continued. The UN's effectiveness could no longer be in doubt.

However, he went on, there was still "a dappled international landscape, with large spots of threatened trouble and incipient conflict". The UN, if supported by the generality of its membership, "can help purge international relations of the lethal elements that lead to violent hostility between States or cause a pervasive sense of insecurity".

Samir S. Shihabi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN, after his election as the forty-sixth Assembly President on 17 September, told Assembly delegations that Member States "have a historic duty to support the General Assembly in playing its full role as a true representative of cooperation among all nations on the basis of sovereign equality and the sharing of responsibility".

The election was conducted by secret ballot. Other candidates were Michael Somare, Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, and Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal, Yemen's Permanent Representative to the UN. Mr. Shihabi received 83 votes, Mr. Somare received 47 and Mr. Al-Ashtal garnered 20.

In an opening address, Mr. Shihabi said the respect for the UN Charter and the application of its rules by the UN and its organs were the best guarantees for the future of the world. They were also "the best panacea for the world's shortcomings and its political, economic and social ills". He stressed that Member States had to support "the serious endeavour to reduce the painful economic imbalance" between individuals and nations, so that per capita income in the North would no longer be 18 times that of the South.

He told reporters on 18 September that he looked forward to "an era of tranquillity and cooperation" in which cooperation would replace confrontation. The UN had been a major factor in "creating the platform for cooperation rather than confrontation", he stated.

On the afternoon of 17 September, the Assembly admitted seven new Member States, bringing the Organization's membership to 166 (*see story, page 49*).

Names circulate

At the top of the Assembly agenda is the appointment of a new Secretary-General of the Organization. The five Secretaries-General so far have been Trygve Lie of Norway, Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden, U Thant of Burma (now Myanmar), Kurt Waldheim of Austria and Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar of Peru. The normal procedure is that the Security Council nominates a candidate for a five-year term and the Assembly votes on the recommendation. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar has been Secretary-General since 1 January 1982; his current term expires on 31 December 1991.

During consultations on 20 September, the Council discussed procedures to select a successor. Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France afterwards reported that Council members intended to start the process at the beginning of October, "with a view to finalizing it as quickly as possible".

The African Group and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity have put forward six candidates: Boutros Boutros Ghali of Egypt, Bernard Chidzero of Zimbabwe, Kenneth Dadzie of Ghana, James Jonah of Sierra Leone, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and Nguema François Owono of Gabon.

On 22 August, the African Group stated it hoped that the international community would give an African the opportunity to serve in that highest position of the world Organization.

But other names were also circulated: Sadruddin Aga Khan, the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for the UN Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq,

Kuwait and the Iraq/Iran and Iraq/Turkey border areas; Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland; Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg; UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata; former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney; Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus; Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek; Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas; former Burundi envoy to the UN Msanze Terrence; and Michel Doo Kingue, Executive Director of the UN Institute for Training and Research.

So far, there has not been a Secretary-General from the African and Eastern European Groups.

UN Photo 178328/J. Bu

The 'Big Five' with the Secretary-General on 27 September.

Preventive diplomacy: top priority

On 27 September, the Foreign Ministers of the five permanent members of the Security Council pledged to make preventive diplomacy a top priority and to work to reinforce the Organization's role in peace-keeping and peacemaking. They reaffirmed that a revitalized UN had a central and increasingly important part to play in international affairs, in keeping with its Charter principles and in creating a new international order.

In a joint statement, the Ministers—Qian Qichen of China, Roland Dumas of France, Boris D. Pankin of the Soviet Union, Douglas Hurd of the United Kingdom and James A. Baker III of the United States—said they had reviewed with the Secretary-General the role of the Security Council in the restoration of Kuwait's independence and sovereignty and agreed that the Council could be effective in upholding international law when it remained firm in its resolve.

According to Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, the experience of operations in the Gulf suggested the need for a collective reflection on questions relating to the future use of the powers vested in the Council under Chapter VII.

In his report, he said that to preclude controversy, those questions should include the mechanisms required for the Council to satisfy itself that the rule of proportionality in the employment of armed force was observed and the rules of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts were complied with.

Careful thought would have to be given to ensuring that the application of Chapter VII measures was not perceived to be overextended. The human effect of sanctions on the population of an offending State, if it lacked the political means to bring about a reversal of the policy that gave rise to the offence, would need to be carefully borne in mind.

Instrument of mediation

"We need . . . actively to foster the perception that, except in cases of action with respect to breaches of the peace or acts of aggression (matters dealt with in Chapter VII), the United Nations is more an instrument of mediation that can help reconcile legitimate claims and interests and achieve just and honourable settlements", he affirmed.

If parties to a dispute failed to refer a matter to the International Court of Justice, the process of achieving a fair and objectively commendable settlement and thus defusing an international crisis situation would be facilitated by obtaining the Court's advisory opinion. The Charter authorized the General Assembly and the Security Council to request such an opinion from the Court. The extension by the Assembly of the authority to the Secretary-General would strengthen his role.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said a reinvigoration of the North-South dialogue had become more urgent than ever. He emphasized that agreement among the Council's permanent members must carry with it the willing support of a majority of nations, if it was to facilitate movement towards a better and saner world. The territorial integrity and political independence of States should be respected, he stated.

End of 45th session

Guido de Marco, President of the forty-fifth General Assembly which began on 18 September 1990, acted as Temporary President prior to the opening of the forty-sixth session. Before handing over the gavel to Mr. Shihabi, he told delegates:

"We live in a time of rapid and unprecedented change. As we face the uncertainties of the future, let us join together . . . in a common commitment to bring greater security and well-being to the people of this planet."

On 16 September, the Assembly formally ended its resumed forty-fifth session. In closing remarks, Mr. de Marco said it was the Assembly's responsibility, in terms of Article 11 of the Charter, in considering the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, to examine the circumstances and mechanisms required in the use of armed force, bearing in mind the principle of proportionality and the humanitarian aspects involved.

The Assembly should make recommendations in regard to such principles both to its members and to the Council. It was a problem requiring members' sensitivity, "dictated by the necessity to avoid appeasement in the face of aggression and, at the same time, avoid warmongering noises which lead to confrontational positions precipitating the use of force".

The Assembly, within that context and through its clarity of thinking, had to avoid double-standard approaches where circumstances, both present and future, might lead to situations which might harm the Organization's credibility. The Assembly could and should play a greater role in the conduct of all aspects of international relations.

Mr. de Marco told reporters that the Assembly had the capacity to deal with the great issues which might confront the international community. Answering a question on the deteriorating economic situation in Africa, he remarked: "In a world where we speak of mountains of butter and people are dying of famine, something is basically wrong which we have so far failed to tackle positively."

On 13 September, the forty-fifth Assembly decided to consider, at the next Assembly session, the second progress report on the implementation of the 1989 Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

What's to come

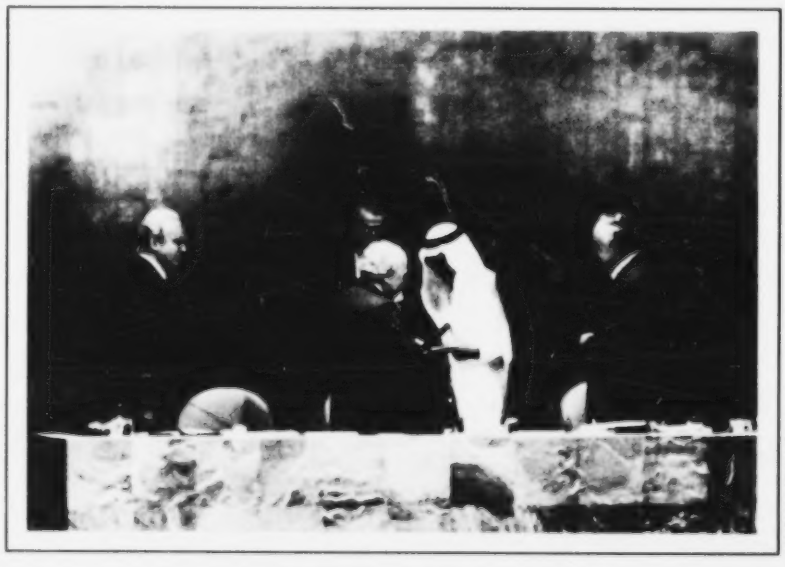
The Assembly this year has an agenda encompassing 146 items—not the longest on record but, as usual, spanning the spectrum of world concerns.

Among other things, it is expected to adopt a set of Principles for Older Persons, a draft of which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council in June in New York. The Principles are based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing which was convened by the UN in Vienna in 1982.

According to the Principles, older persons have the right to make decisions about their care and quality of life, and should be able to reside at home as long as possible and remain integrated in society.

The Assembly is also expected to adopt a body of principles for the protection of persons with mental illness and for the improvement of mental health care. This draft was endorsed by the Human Rights Commission at its forty-seventh session in Geneva from 28 January to 8 March 1991.

Also expected to be approved is a set of concrete proposals on measures and recommendations for sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa beyond 1991. The text was submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole on the Final Review and Appraisal of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, which met from 3 to 13 September in New York.



UN Photo178018/S. Lein

End of the 45th session: Outgoing President de Marco hands over the gavel.

'A year of remarkable change'

"It was a year of remarkable change", Under-Secretary-General Ronald Spiers, who heads the UN division that organizes the work of the General Assembly, told a special briefing for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at UN Headquarters on 19 September.

The UN has increasingly become involved as an institution in an "international landscape littered with issues", he said. And the work of the forty-sixth session, which began on 17 September, will reflect that situation, he added.

The session will offer a "structured opportunity" for major world leaders attending it to exchange views and widen consensus on the issues.

Prime among the political topics before the world body will be: the aftermath of the Gulf war; the ongoing peace process in Cambodia, Central America, Cyprus, the Middle East, southern Africa and Afghanistan; the new UN operation for a referendum in Western Sahara; and the international peace conference in the Middle East.

The continuing problem of debt and development, in the context of the ever-widening gap between rich and poor, will be a major focus of debate. Preparations for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil will be reviewed. A more open approach in considering human rights situations is expected in future, Mr. Spiers said.

The UN in the last few years has seen, Mr. Spiers pointed out, "a gradual maturing of discussion", with less sloganeering and less inclination to view things from a black or white perspective.

For example, in 1990, a total of 345 resolutions were adopted, some 259—about 75 per cent—by consensus. In 1989, about 65 per cent were adopted without a vote; the year before, more than 50 per cent. "It is a growing and useful practice", he observed.

The admission of seven new members—the three Baltic republics: Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia; two former Pacific island territories: the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands; and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea—was welcomed at a special ceremony on opening day, bringing UN membership to 166.

"This furthers the development of the universality of the Organization—its principal strength", Mr. Spiers said.

The three-week general debate, to run from 23 September through 10 October, is scheduled to hear statements from more than 160 countries.

As of the beginning of October, the Assembly had on its agenda 146 items—12 less than the record number of 158 considered at the 1982 session. Seven new items were inscribed: exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict (put forward by Jordan); the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States against Cuba (Cuba); strengthening of coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance in the UN (Netherlands); revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (Malta); granting of observer status to Caribbean countries; situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti; and financing of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

Selection of a new Secretary-General—Peruvian Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is expected to retire at the end of the year after 10 years in office—is a matter of intense interest. A restructuring of the top level of the Secretariat has also been under discussion. The Assembly will consider a programme budget for 1992-1993 totalling nearly $2 billion.

All in all, Mr. Spiers said, the UN continues to be "the most useful and cost-effective instrument of international communication ever devised".

UN Photo 178011/M. Grant

Under-Secretary-General Spiers

Committee forecast

The Chairmen of the General Assembly's Main Committees are: Robert Mroziewicz of Poland, First Committee (Political and Security); Nitya Pibulsonggram of Thailand, Special Political Committee; John O. Burke of Ireland, Second Committee (Economic and Financial); Mohammad Hussain Al-Shaali of the United Arab Emirates, Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural); Charles Stephen Flemming of Saint Lucia, Fourth Committee (Decolonization); Ali Sunni Muntasser of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary); and Pedro Comissario Afonso of Mozambique, Sixth Committee (Legal).

The Assembly's 21 Vice-Presidents, elected without vote, represent: Australia, Belize, Botswana, Ecuador, Guinea, Honduras, Italy, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and the Council's five permanent members—China, France, United Kingdom, United States and Soviet Union.

Nine nations—Belgium, Belize, Chile, China, Lesotho, Singapore, Togo, the Soviet Union and the United States—were appointed to the Credentials Committee.

On 9 October, the Committee recommended that the Assembly accept the formal credentials of representatives of 117 of its 166 Member States for the Assembly's current regular session. Paul Noterdaeme of Belgium was elected Chairman.

FIRST COMMITTEE: Disarmament

UN Photo

Mr. Mroziewicz

Nineteen disarmament items will be considered, as well as two on international security and one on the question of Antarctica. Three of the disarmament items include 29 sub-items.

The Committtee is expected to focus on those dealing with weapons of mass destruction. The recent Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and announcements by France and China accepting in principle the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be considered.

Compliance with nuclear safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is also set for discussion.

Other areas of interest include questions of totally banning nuclear tests and establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Following the recent accession by South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia to the NPT, the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa is also an important subject for debate.

The spotlight will also be on chemical weapons, with a final agreement on a convention to ban such weapons expected in 1992. Establishment of a verification system for the convention and, in particular, a feasible inspection regime represent one of the outstanding issues yet to be resolved. Calls for the introduction of a substantive verification regime for the control of biological weapons will be a focus of deliberations.

The question of international arms transfers is likely to be a central focus of debate on conventional weapons. In that context, a report of the Secretary-General recommending the establishment of a universal and non-discriminatory arms transfer register under UN auspices might prove to be a centrepiece for discussion.

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

UN Photo

Mr. Pibulsonggram

For the second time in three years, the Special Political Committee will consider an item on protection and security of small States.

Two other important subjects before it are Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories, and the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Organizations and individuals with a special interest in South Africa's apartheid policies, an item debated in plenary, will voice their views before the Committee.

Other agenda items include: effects of atomic radiation; international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space; comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects; information issues; and the composition of relevant UN organs.

SECOND COMMITTEE: Economic Issues

UN Photo

Mr. Burke

Four new items will be considered by the Second Committee. They are: international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl; human resources development; industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries; and emergency assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia.

About one third of the Committee's work focuses on economic and humanitarian assistance or reconstruction. External debt crisis and development are of crucial concern. A report of the first Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (4-5 July 1991, Geneva) will be reviewed. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind is another particularly topical item.

THIRD COMMITTEE: Social Matters

UN Photo

Mr. Al-Shaali

With the most varied and usually the longest agenda, the Committee considers a potpourri of items relating to social, humanitarian and cultural questions. The report of a ministerial meeting to be held in Paris from 21 to 23 November on proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme will be reviewed, as well as a report on the size, mandate and future of the programme.

Other issues concern self-determination, drugs, racial discrimination, women, youth, the disabled, the ageing and the family, refugees and human rights.

Rapporteurs are expected to personally present reports on the human rights situations in Kuwait, Iraq and South Africa.

FOURTH COMMITTEE: Decolonization

UN Photo

Mr. Flemming

The Committee is to focus attention on the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories, located predominantly in the Caribbean and Pacific subregions. Chairman Charles S. Flemming said new challenges were posed by the needs of those Territories, and new strategies had to be adopted. Territory leaders were meeting more often to approach certain problems collectively, and such developments were ushering in a new attitude towards decolonization, he stated.

FIFTH COMMITTEE: Budget

UN Photo

Mr. Muntasser

Several major tasks are before the Budget Committee, including a nearly $2-billion budget for 1992-1993, and a new assessment scale for Member States. Administrative and financial efficiency within the UN will also be a topic of major concern.

Also to be debated are the administrative and budgetary aspects of the UN peace-keeping and related operations, and financing of recent or current peace-keeping and related operations.

A UN official said on 17 September that the Secretary-General had written to Foreign Ministers of Member States concerning the financial situation of the UN, which was "in the midst of its worst financial crisis since it had been founded".

The Secretary-General said the Organization faced "a stark alternative: either we manage effectively to address the financial problem or the United Nations will be rendered incapable, for lack of resources, to perform its far-reaching functions, with the required effectiveness, especially for the maintenance of peace and security."

As of 1 September, unpaid assessments to the regular budget totalled $809.5 million. On the peace-keeping side, contributions outstanding as of 1 September amounted to $486.9 million. The United States, the largest debtor, owed some $700 million ($531 million to the regular budget and $172 million to the peace-keeping operations).

SIXTH COMMITTEE: Legal

UN Photo

Mr. Afonso

A new item proposed by Jordan on "exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to prevent such exploitation" will be considered by the Legal Committee.

It will also review draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission on: the law of non-navigational uses of watercourses; the draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind; and jurisdictional immunities of States and their property.

A draft Declaration on Fact-Finding by the UN in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security is expected to be adopted. Further work will be undertaken in the framework of the UN Decade of International Law (1990-1999).

Measures to prevent international terrorism and various aspects of law relating to diplomatic relations will be discussed.

'A big day'

Seven States join UN; Membership now 166

UN Photo 178023/E. Debebe

Flag-raising for new members, 17 September.

The admission of seven new States to the United Nations on 17 September brought the Organization's total membership to 166. That makes 1991 a record year since 1960, when 17 nations were admitted. The UN Member States currently represent the overwhelming majority of countries of the world.

All seven members—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—were admitted by acclamation by the General Assembly. On the same day, their national flags were raised at a special ceremony in front of UN Headquarters.

"Today is a big day for the United Nations", said Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar at the ceremony. "With this event, the United Nations takes a further important step towards the goal of universality of membership—a goal that it has embraced since its inception, over four and a half decades ago.

"As it moves towards a more universal basis, the world Organization reflects increasingly the great diversity of mankind and brings together, within its councils, all quarters of the modern international community. Today's occasion demonstrates, moreover, the important changes that have taken place in international relations over recent years and the enhanced cooperation that has been developing among the Organization's Member States."

On 8 August, the Council unanimously recommended that the two Koreas be granted UN membership. The following day, it acted on the two South Pacific States—Micronesia and the Marshall Islands—formerly parts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The three Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—which had recently become independent from the USSR, were recommended on 12 September.

These decisions were of "great symbolic and historic importance", said Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France. "The wheels of history have been turning. The winds of freedom have been blowing down old structures. We are entering a world where perhaps there is less order, but where there is ever more hope."

First actions

In their first official actions as UN Members, representatives addressed the Assembly.

Yon Hyong Muk, Premier of the Administrative Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said his people would strive for a reunified Korea which would take one seat at the Organization.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju said North Korea would join actively in UN activities "for the sake of world peace".

Reunification was "a question of relinking the artificially severed arteries of our nation".

Rao Tae Woo, President of the Republic of Korea, called for national reunification to be achieved "peacefully, without the use of military force, independently, on the basis of self-determination, and democratically, in accordance with the free will of the Korean people".

Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ock of South Korea said the parallel membership of the two Koreas gave them the "opportunity to make constructive contributions to UN efforts to promote peace and common prosperity".

Bailey Olter, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, believed that "simultaneous attainment of membership by such a large group will encourage yet more nations . . . to become Members and bring the goal of universality closer to ultimate attainment".

Jack Fritz, Speaker of the Congress, said Micronesia had seen membership in the UN as a goal because of its desire for peace. His country had been "impatient to have our own voice in the advancement of the principles of the UN Charter".

Amata Kabua, President of the Marshall Islands, said that the UN had helped to "usher in an unprecedented degree of international cooperation, mutual respect and understanding among the peoples and nations of the world". Still, international machinery should be strengthened to address newly emerging global issues.

Arnold Ruutel, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Estonia, noted that the "time of blocs" was past. Having restored its ties to the world and its "rightful place as a full-fledged member of the international community of nation-States", his country would "once again help to build collective security in the world".

Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia, said his country would have to set up "infrastructures directed towards a free market economy", and asked for support from the world community. Having organized its economic life and having integrated it into the international economic and cultural exchange, his nation would not forget its "debts and obligations".

Thanking the "independent States of the world which created and cultivated the United Nations" for accepting Lithuania "into their family", Vytautas Landsbergis, President of the Supreme Council of Lithuania, said that the close of the second millenium had ended the "bloodiest and most perverse century. The greatest evil—the cult of hatred and falsehood, whose fundamental argument was violence—now retreats and falls apart", he added.

UN Photo 178125/M. Grant

Wilfred I. Kendall *(left)*, new Ambassador of the Marshall Islands, presents credentials to the Secretary-General.

Credentials presented

Soon after their admission to the UN, seven new ambassadors presented their credentials to Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar.

Almost all are career diplomats, with some having experience in the UN system. For example, Pak Gil Yon, Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and his counterpart, Chang Hee Roe of the Republic of Korea, both have served as Permanent Observers to the UN.

Jesse Marehalau of Micronesia has been his country's Representative to the United States.

Wilfred Kendall of the Marshall Islands has served as Ambassador to the United States and Chile, being his country's first diplomat to receive an overseas post.

Ernst Jaakson, Estonia's first Permanent Representative to the UN and its Ambassador to the United States, had been Estonia's Council General in New York in charge of Legation since November 1965.

The Ambassadors of Latvia and Lithuania to the UN have represented their nations' interests in the United States as well: Anatol Dinbergs, as Latvia's Chargé d'affaires in Washington, DC., since October 1970; and Anicetas Simutis, as Lithuania's Consul General in New York since 1967.

Growth in membership

The name "United Nations", suggested by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the 1 January 1942 "Declaration by United Nations", when representatives of 26 nations

UN Photo 178037/M. Grant

Lithuanian delegation taking their seat in the General Assembly Hall.

pledged to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers in the Second World War.

In April 1945, representatives of 50 countries—the original UN membership—met at the San Francisco Opera House for the UN Conference on International Organization, where the UN Charter was adopted and signed on 26 June. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

Over the next 10 years, nine more countries joined the Organization. In 1955, 16 nations became Member States and in 1956, five more were admitted, bringing the total membership to 81.

Another large increase came in 1960 because of the independence of a number of colonial nations. That year, 17 countries, including 16 African States, were granted UN membership. Later in 1960, the Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Within two years, another 11 States had joined.

Over the next two decades, membership grew slowly but steadily, reaching 144 by 1975. That year was marked by the admission of six new Members. Among them was Mozambique, which had attained independence after a long struggle for national liberation. Angola, another former colony that had fought for its independence, became a Member State in 1976.

Zimbabwe's admission in 1980 is another example of a UN member that had attained statehood in a struggle for racial equality and justice. Ten more States were admitted during the 1980s.

Namibia became the 160th UN Member State on 23 April 1990. However, on 22 May, membership dropped to 159 when Democratic Yemen and Yemen continued as a single Member, changing their name to Yemen.

Later in 1990, the membership see-sawed again. With the admission of Liechtenstein on 18 September, it reached 160 again, but then dropped back to 159 when the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic united on 3 October 1990 to form one sovereign State of Germany.

There were some other peculiarities as well with regard to UN membership.

In 1958, for example, Guinea was admitted but total membership remained unchanged at 82, due to the establishment of the United Arab Republic by a union of Syria and Egypt. In 1961 Syria, having resumed its status as an independent State, regained separate UN membership.

In 1971, the Assembly decided to "restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China . . . and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it".

In January 1965, Indonesia decided to withdraw from the UN, but resumed its membership in September 1966.

The Federation of Malaya joined the UN in 1957. In 1963, its name was changed to Malaysia, following the admission to the new federation of Singapore, Sabah (North Borneo) and Sarawak. Singapore became an independent State in August 1965 and a UN Member in September of that year.

Tanganyika had been a UN member since December 1961 and Zanzibar since December 1963. Following their unification in 1964, the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar continued as a single Member, changing their name to the United Republic of Tanzania on 1 November 1964.

Membership in the UN, according to its Charter, is "open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations" of the Charter and, "in the judgement of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations".

More and more countries join the Organization. It only proves that, as Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar put it, "the effectiveness of the UN can no longer be in doubt" and that the world body "is being increasingly looked upon as a trusted intermediary".

Conference on Disarmament

Hope for chemical weapons ban in 1992

UN Photo 177352

Meeting in Geneva, the Conference on Disarmament is held in three parts during the year.

A final agreement in 1992 on an international convention banning chemical weapons was predicted at the conclusion of this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament.

"Our work has acquired a qualitatively new content, and negotiations have now entered a final stage", said Serguei Batsanov, outgoing Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. The scope of the future convention had been expanded to include such a fundamental obligation as the prohibition of use of chemical weapons. Moreover, the Committee had been mandated to intensify the negotiations "with the view to striving to achieve a final agreement on the Convention by 1992", he added.

This new hope was largely attributable to a United States proposal announced in May, dealing with two key obstacles in the negotiations. In a message to the Conference, United States President George Bush said his country would drop its insistence on a right of retaliation with chemical weapons and on keeping 2 per cent of its chemical weapons arsenal until all chemical weapons-capable States had signed the convention.

Concluding the session on 4 September, the Conference adopted its annual report to the General Assembly's forty-sixth session, which contains the reports of its five Ad Hoc Committees on chemical weapons, a nuclear-test ban, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, on radiological weapons and on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States. It also received a report from the expert group on seismic events.

During the seven-month session, which began on 22 January and was held in three parts, the Conference also considered other disarmament issues: cessation of a nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, disarmament and prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters. Agreement on an organizational framework for consideration of the item dealing with the comprehensive programme of disarmament still eluded the Conference.

The Conference is a multilateral negotiating body on disarmament consisting of the five nuclear-weapon States (China, France, USSR, United Kingdom and

United States) and 34 other countries. Non-members are invited, upon their request, to participate in its work.

Breakthrough reported

Although the United States proposal was considered a "breakthrough" by some delegates, many felt that remaining problems surrounding a chemical weapons ban should not be underestimated. Discussions on challenge inspection, for example, hinted at major difficulties, according to Adolf Ritter von Wagner, the new Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. A cost-effective and practicable system of verification of the chemical industry, while balancing breadth of coverage with protection of legitimate industrial activity, must be found, he added.

These problems could be solved easily if there was political will to do so. The price of acceptance of the chemical weapons convention was worthwhile, it was widely felt, because of increased security and the creation of the climate of confidence in which international cooperation and peaceful trade in chemicals could prosper.

Nuclear-test ban

Re-establishing its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban, the Conference requested the Committee to initiate, as a first step towards achieving a treaty, substantive work on specific and interrelated test-ban issues, including the treaty's structure and scope, as well as verification and compliance.

The Committee reported that it "had touched upon the major issues in considerable detail" and that its work was "useful in preparing ground for future in-depth consideration" of the subject.

It commended the work of the Ad Hoc Group on seismic events, stating that the major technical experiments conducted by the Group would contribute to elaborating seismic verification mechanisms.

The central purpose of nuclear testing, many contended during the debate, was the modernization of nuclear weapons. A comprehensive nuclear-test ban would help halt the next round of the vertical nuclear-arms race, namely, the development of "third" generation or "direct energy" weapons.

Other matters

The Conference recognized that the legal regime applicable to outer space, although it played a significant role in preventing an arms race in that environment, did not by itself guarantee that outer space would not be used for military purposes.

The Conference stressed the need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral. It recognized the crucial role of bilateral negotiations between the USSR and the United States, noting that bilateral and multilateral efforts were complementary.

As to security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States, the Conference reaffirmed that those countries should be effectively assured against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, pending effective measures of nuclear disarmament. In debate, specific difficulties were aired relating to differing perceptions of security interests among States, thus preventing a "common formula". Nevertheless, delegations demonstrated a readiness to pursue the search for a common approach on the substance of negative security assurances.

The Ad Hoc Committee working on a draft convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons said its work had contributed further to clarification of different approaches on important subjects under consideration.

UN Photo 158589/H. Arvisson

DB-2 bombs, designed to disperse mustard gas, destroyed in Iraq.

Biological weapons

Third review conference focuses on verification, confidence-building

Verification, confidence-building and technology transfer were among the major topics discussed at the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (9-27 September, Geneva).

The Conference adopted by consensus a Final Declaration, in which participants stated that the use of biological weapons is "repugnant to the conscience of mankind". The 15-article Convention—considered the first international agreement to provide for genuine disarmament—is "essential to international peace and security", delegates agreed.

The Declaration states that elimination of both chemical and biological weapons would facilitate the achievement of general and complete disarmament. All States should deal seriously with compliance issues, because "failure to do so would undermine the Convention and the disarmament process in general". Full implementation of the Convention, however, should not hamper economic and technological development and international cooperation in peaceful biological activities.

Participating in the Conference were 78 States Parties, six States which had signed the Treaty but had not yet ratified it, two UN specialized agencies (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, which participated as observers), one regional intergovernmental organization (League of Arab States) and 11 non-governmental organizations and research institutes. Three States neither Parties to nor signatories of the Convention were also granted observer status.

The Convention was commended by the General Assembly on 16 December 1971 in resolution 2826 (XXVI). It was opened for signature in April 1972 and, in accordance with Article XIV, entered into force in 1975 when 22 States ratified it. Two previous review conferences were held in Geneva—in 1980 and 1986.

In a closing statement, Conference President Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina noted a "welcome sense of compromise in the negotiations". Boldness had indeed been shown, although the "aspirations of some might not have been met", he said.

Final Declaration

In its Declaration, the Conference stressed that in the case of alleged use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, the UN was called upon to take appropriate measures in

UN Photo 178173

Conference President Garcia Moritan *(centre)*, Under-Secretary-General Yasushi Akashi *(left)*, Sammy Kum Buo, Conference Secretary-General.

accordance with its Charter, including timely and efficient investigations.

The Conference welcomed regional initiatives that would lead to wider accession to the Convention, as well as those dealing with the renunciation of weapons of mass destruction, including biological weapons.

Scientific communities were asked to continue support only for activities that had justification under the Convention, and refrain from those in breach of its provisions. States Parties were also urged to observe all necessary safety precautions to protect populations and the environment.

The Conference noted with concern the increasing gap between the developed and developing countries in biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas. It urged all States Parties to actively promote international cooperation and technological transfer on an equal and non-discriminatory basis and considered that the establishment of a world data bank under UN supervision might be a suitable way for facilitating the flow of information in those fields.

Other action

The Conference also established an ad hoc group of governmental experts to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint to help close a gap which presently exists in the Convention. It is to meet in Geneva from 30 March to 10 April 1992 and complete its work, preferably before the end of 1993.

To further strengthen information exchanges, the Conference agreed on three new confidence-building measures—a "Declaration of Legislation, Regulations and Other Measures", a "Declaration of Past Activities in Offensive and/or Defensive Biological Research Development Programmes" and a "Declaration of Vaccine Production Facilities". Also agreed on was a "Declaration on Nothing to Declare or Nothing New to Declare".

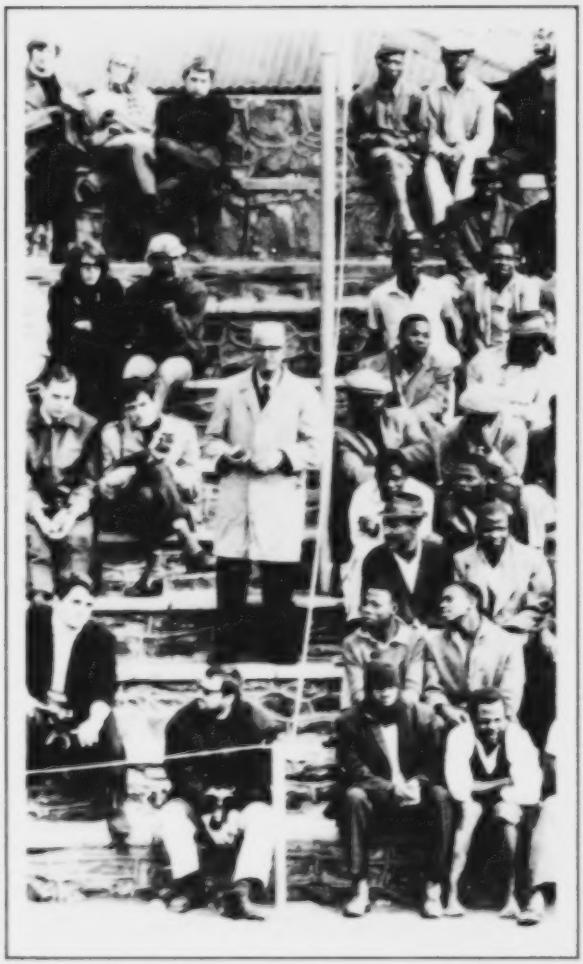
Another positive development came with the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw its reservation to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, under which it had retained the right to retaliate in kind if biological weapons were used against it.

A Fourth Review Conference is to be held in Geneva no later than 1996. Issues to be considered are: the impact of scientific and technological developments relating to the Convention; the relevance of a chemical weapons ban to the effective implementation of the biological weapons Convention; and the effectiveness of coordinated confidence-building measures.

UN Photo 158590/H Ardvasson

Verification processes are of major concern. Above, munitions in Iraq awaiting destruction.

Process to end apartheid 'halting' but 'on course'



UN Photo 179139H Vassal

Segregated stands in a South African sports stadium in 1969. Photographed by Hughes Vassal of Sygma.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in the second progress report on the implementation of the 1989 Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, stated that "over the last 12 months, the process towards the end of apartheid in South Africa, although halting, remained on course".

The 4 September report (*A/45/1052*), covering the period from July 1990 to August 1991, emphasized that the "wave of violence that has engulfed the country" had become a "severe test of confidence" and a "serious obstacle to the evolving political dialogue". The Secretary-General observed in particular that the impartiality of the security forces had been called into question, and that the potential for destabilization by extremist groups remained a cause of concern. He expressed the hope, however, that the recent initiatives aimed at ending violence would allow the process of change to regain momentum.

Since June 1990, he noted, South Africa had enacted important measures towards dismantling the basic laws of apartheid. However, concomitant attitudes and practices, let alone the consequences of those laws, persisted and the magnitude of the socio-economic inequalities in South Africa could jeopardize a process which would probably be "lengthy" and "vulnerable".

South Africa appeared to be moving ahead again towards the beginning of substantive negotiations. At the top of the political agenda was a meeting of all parties on the mechanism to draft a new constitution and the necessary arrangements for the transition to a democratic order. The Secretary-General was encouraged by the "broad consensus" which had emerged on the need for human rights to be protected in a democratic South Africa, and observed that the ratification of international human rights covenants could be a significant step.

The Secretary-General asked that the response of the international community to developments in South Africa be "finely tuned to this complex and delicate process" and that "encouragement, pressure and assistance be suitably applied" as envisaged by the Declaration and bearing in mind its ultimate objective, namely, the establishment of a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

In an 11 September statement (*A/46/476*) on the report, South African Foreign Minister R.F. Botha said that, although he was not in agreement with some of the remarks in the report, it nevertheless contained "important, positive acknowledgements".

These included:

- That the process towards the end of apartheid in South Africa, although halting, was "on course",
- That the most important development in this regard was the removal of basic apartheid laws, and
- That initiatives to address the violence issue were encouraging, as was the broad consensus that human rights in a democratic South Africa must be protected.

There also appeared to be a "growing convergence" of the views of parties on basic principles of a new constitution. Agreement on mechanisms to arrive at a new constitution, as well as on the process for transition to a democratic system, must still be reached.

He found it "encouraging" that a number of leaders in South Africa "now realize that there is no other realistic alternative to negotiating together a democratic, non-racial future for their country".

ANTI-APARTHEID NOTES

Landmark agreement on voluntary repatriation signed

A landmark agreement on voluntary repatriation of South African refugees and political exiles was signed on 16 August by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and South Africa. The agreement, which formally establishes the first UN presence in South Africa, came after 16 months of negotiations.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said the agreement marked the "beginning of the end of a 30-year-old human tragedy". For South Africa, it was "a giant step towards the construction of a society where all South Africans enjoy basic human rights".

The main points of the agreement include a comprehensive amnesty for all political offences, a mechanism that allows UNHCR to make representations on behalf of persons not granted amnesty, the establishment of an adequate and effective UNHCR presence in South Africa, free access for UNHCR officers to returnees anywhere in the country, and complete freedom of movement for returnees in South Africa.

Under the agreement, those granted amnesty will be allowed to "peacefully return to South Africa without risk of arrest, detention, imprisonment or legal proceedings whether civil or criminal in respect of any political offence".

Initial cost estimates for the repatriation range from $35 million to $40 million. Several Governments have expressed their willingness to contribute, but only if the Geneva-based refugee agency is involved.

An estimated 40,000 South African refugees are living in dozens of countries worldwide, some of them for more than 30 years.

Day of Solidarity with South African women observed

The Special Committee against Apartheid observed the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa on 9 August at a solemn meeting in New York. The Day was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1981 to commemorate a demonstration held on 9 August 1956 in Pretoria to protest the extension of pass laws to African women.

Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari said the goal of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa was far from being achieved. In spite of many positive steps, negotiations for a new constitution had not yet begun and no agreement on transitional arrangements had been made.

Committee commends South African National Peace Accord

The Special Committee against Apartheid on 19 September called the National Peace Accord, which was concluded on 14 September in South Africa, "a significant step" in the search for a negotiated end to apartheid.

The Committee commended the South African Government, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party for their determination to end the political violence in South Africa. The code of behaviour established and the mechanisms created to monitor and curb transgressions were "helpful measures to arrest the recurrence of the debilitating violence in the country".

UN Photo 178044/E. Debebe

Chairman Gambari

By the agreement, the signatories had opened the prospect for a climate that fostered "a culture of tolerance conducive to a peaceful process", the Committee said. All parties must fully comply with its spirit and letter. If fully implemented, the Accord would ensure that South African security forces would be more responsive to their statutory duties and the yearnings of South Africans by maintaining peace, law and order without bias.

The Committee on 24 July had warned that, unless a climate conducive to negotiations and free political activities was established soon, it was very likely that the whole process of achieving national reconciliation and adopting a new democratic constitution in South Africa might be "derailed".

Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, in a statement, said South African authorities should take "immediate and effective remedial action" to establish a measure of credibility and good faith in any future negotiations.

Assembly approves UNAVEM II budget

The General Assembly on 27 August approved a budget of $49.5 million for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission—known as UNAVEM II—to cover its operations from 1 June to 31 December.

The Mission was set up by the Security Council on 30 May to verify peace accords reached on 1 May between the Angolan Government and the opposition forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The Secretary-General had recommended to the Council that the Mission's mandate be enlarged and prolonged, in response to new developments in Angola. He had stated that the Mission had successfully fulfilled its original mandate set out by the Council in 1988, namely, to verify the redeployment to the north and the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, according to a timetable agreed by Angola and Cuba in December 1988.

On 16 August, the Council agreed with the Secretary-General's 14 August proposal to appoint Major-General Edward Ushie Unimna of Nigeria as Chief Military Observer of UNAVEM II to succeed Brigadier-General Pericles Ferreira Gomes of Brazil.

Regret at 'premature' lifting of sanctions expressed

The Special Committee against Apartheid on 11 July expressed regret at the "premature" lifting by the United States Government of sanctions against South Africa, provided for in the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986.

Acting Committee Chairman Marjorie R. Thorpe of Trinidad and Tobago, in a statement, pointed out that in that Act the United States had outlined the statutory conditions Pretoria should meet before sanctions against it were relaxed. Among those was the release of all political prisoners. Ms. Thorpe stressed that there were still political prisoners in South Africa.

Expert group reviews human rights situation

The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa, set up by the Commission on Human Rights in 1967 with a mandate that included the study of human rights violations in South Africa, during a series of hearings in London from 22 to 26 July, received testimony from 11 witnesses on the latest developments in the human rights situation in South Africa. The hearings focused on conditions there following the repeal of pieces of apartheid legislation. The witnesses dealt with such matters as reports of torture, ill-treatment and deaths of detainees, curbs on trade unions and student movements, and freedom of expression.

Testimony was given by representatives of non-governmental organizations, including the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, as well as by individuals and organizations based in South Africa. A representative of the International Labour Organisation also presented evidence.

Need to continue, strengthen oil embargo affirmed

The need to continue and strengthen the oil embargo against South Africa was affirmed at a hearing in New York on 15 August, organized by the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa. Chairman Anthony B. Nyakyi of the United Republic of Tanzania said that apartheid still remained firmly in place, and the Group should consider ways to render the oil embargo more effective and the necessary conditions under which it could be lifted.

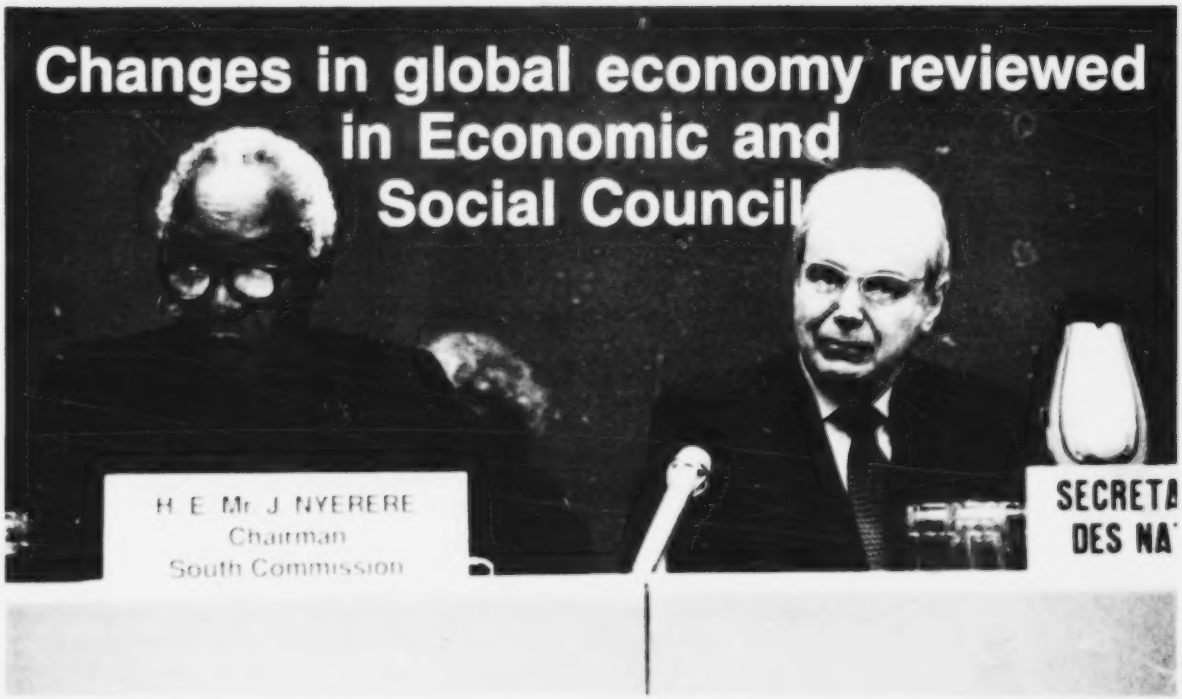
Decision to re-admit South Africa to Olympics challenged

The Special Committee against Apartheid on 11 July expressed surprise at the "premature" decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to readmit South Africa and allow it to participate in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, or possibly in the Winter Games in Albertville, France in February 1992.

All sports organizations and federations, as well as activities and facilities, had not been desegregated, Acting Committee Chairman Marjorie R. Thorpe pointed out. The Committee felt that, at the very least, certain steps recognized by the IOC had to be taken, including:

- taking measures to unify all South African sports on a non-racial basis;
- making South African sports facilities effectively available to all South Africans without any distinction of race; and
- taking effective action to develop and train athletes of all races.

Changes in global economy reviewed in Economic and Social Council



UN Photo 177905

A special two-day high-level discussion of the impact of changing East-West relations on the global economy took place at the opening of the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council (3-26 July, Geneva).

The 54-member Council, which beginning in 1992 will meet once a year in a four- to five-week session, also held an informal exchange of views on the report of the South Commission, set up in 1987 to suggest solutions to the economic and social problems of developing countries in the southern hemisphere.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in the discussion of *"The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission"*, stated that for the past 10 years, the world had witnessed the "continued marginalization of the developing countries", most of whose economies had either stagnated or declined.

The economic, social and environmental consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were the subject of another exchange of views. Multilateral cooperation and the developmental needs of Africa were also the focus of debate.

Delegates noted the Secretary-General's proposal to convene an international conference on development financing. The decision echoed concerns voiced by the Secretary-General that in order to avoid a monumental human tragedy in Africa and help indebted countries of Asia and Latin America solve resource problems, it was time to consider how the essential needs of the future would be met.

The Council reaffirmed the importance of an early, successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and expressed concern over the persistence of protectionist measures adversely affecting the trade of developing countries.

By a vote of 32 to 13, with 5 abstentions, Israel was granted membership in the Economic Commission for Europe.

In all, a total of 48 resolutions and 43 decisions were adopted by the body on a wide variety of economic and social matters, including trade, regional cooperation, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic, population, the environment and natural disaster, among others.

Building self-reliance

Julius K. Nyerere, South Commission Chairman and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, noted that although responsibility for development of the South lay with the South, the report was also addressed to the North, as the South was affected by what the North did or did not do.

Mr. Nyerere told the Council that the Commission had urged southern nations to direct their economic and social policies towards building both national self-reliance, and, through increased South-South cooperation, collective self-reliance.

The South, viewing the integrated economies of the North as a lesson in solidarity, should learn to maximize its resources for its own people and thus end the "perverse and huge annual net transfer of resources from the poor South to the rich North", he said.

As the East-West division was being overcome, the North-South division was the one that most threatened future world peace and security, Mr. Nyerere concluded.

North-South gap

Delegates at the special high-level meeting—20 of the 53 countries participating were represented at the ministerial level—also zeroed in on the growing gap between the North and the South, even as they welcomed the spread of democracy across Eastern Europe.

They voiced fears that the huge capital needs of Eastern Europe would siphon off assistance from the developing countries, already burdened by long periods of stagnation. To offset a possible diversion of aid from South to East, some speakers suggested that the restructured economies of Eastern Europe might constitute an expanding market for developing countries' goods and might also provide capital flows towards developing countries.

Representatives from industrialized countries felt that the feared diversion of funds was not taking place. Some stated that their assistance to Central and Eastern Europe had been funded entirely from new sources.

Africa on the agenda

Informing the Council that more than half of Africa's population would be living below the poverty line at the end of the decade unless urgent measures are taken, the Secretary-General expressed his dismay that more African countries had recently joined the ranks of least developed countries, and termed himself "deeply worried" by the crisis on the continent.

Japan stated in debate that it intended to host a major international conference on African development in 1993, with the participation of African Heads of State.

An action programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000) was adopted. A programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), being formulated by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, was to be submitted to the 1991 General Assembly.

The Council also expressed its appreciation to countries contributing to the second phase (1991-1993) of the International Fund for Agricultural Development's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification.

The Council adopted a text on the "critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa", appealing for generous aid from the international community and calling on Governments of affected countries to allow international relief organizations full access to the area.

The Council welcomed a new regional convention on cooperation in fisheries among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean. It also called for a new report on the proposed permanent link, either a bridge or tunnel, between Europe and Africa through the Strait of Gibraltar.

The success of a large-scale programme to eradicate the screw-worm fly from North Africa was noted, as was continued work under an international strategy to fight locust and grasshopper infestations.

UN Photo

Africa's needs are manifold—poverty and hunger abound.

UN Photo 178116/E Debebe

Pledging Conference for Chernobyl assistance, 20 September, New York.

In other action, the Council, noting the evolving situation in South Africa, including the repeal of major apartheid legislation, called on transnational corporations (TNCs) to stop "all forms of trade and economic links with the racist minority regime". The Secretary-General was asked to continue collecting and disseminating information on the activities of TNCs still conducting operations there.

Environmental action

Environmental issues were a key concern of the Council this year. Continued aid to areas affected by the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine was urged, with a pledging conference set for 20 September to fund activities aimed at mitigating the consequences of the disaster.

The international community was also asked to support the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as well as the UN Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

The Council supported preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment, scheduled for January 1992 in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the preparatory process for the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Other resolutions dealt with implementing the 1976 Mar del Plata Action Plan on water resources; development and efficient use of energy resources in developing countries; trends in the development of mineral resources, and new techniques, including remote sensing, for detecting natural resources.

Food front

Concerning the assessment of the world's food needs and early warning systems to signal food shortages, the Council urged strengthening cooperative arrangements within the framework of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture.

A report was asked on liberalization trends in the international trade of agricultural and tropical products. An increase from 30 to 42 in the membership of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme (WFP) was recommended. A target of $1.5 billion for voluntary contributions to the WFP for the period 1993-1994 was set.

Taking account of the Gulf conflict, the Council also recommended increased assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Member States were also called on to continue assistance to Lebanon and Yemen.

The Council, recognizing the vital importance of informatics in promoting development, asked for a report on obstacles to Member States' access to UN computerized databases and information systems.

The Council also welcomed the initiative of a group of First Ladies to convene a summit on the economic advancement of rural women in Brussels on 25 February 1992, under the patronage of Belgium's Queen Fabiola.

A mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997) was scheduled for 1994. The Council also recommended extending the second half of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1985-1994) to 1996.

Committee evaluates African recovery and sets 'New Agenda'

A new plan for African recovery efforts was formulated by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly, which met in New York from 3 to 14 September to conduct the final review and appraisal of the five-year UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

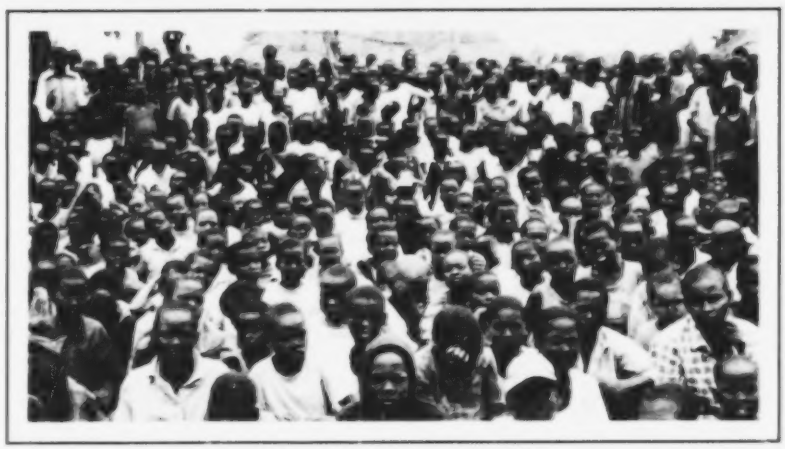
The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was adopted by consensus *ad referendum* and recommended for approval by the Assembly later this year.

The Committee also completed a 44-paragraph assessment of the implementation of the original Programme of Action. Acknowledging, along with other critics, that that Programme had been too optimistic, the Committee noted that targets for growth, food security, human investment and debt reduction had been missed, and declines rather than hoped-for increases had been recorded by many States and for Africa as a whole.

Nevertheless, in the Committee's view, the Programme "was far from being a failure". It had focused the attention of African and other Governments on the basic economic, human and governance problems of Africa. "As a result, the economic decline afflicting Africa from 1981 to 1985 was slowed and, in many countries, halted."

During debate, it was apparent that representatives of African States and their development partners were often deeply divided over the assessment of the Programme's results and future measures to be taken.

In the New Agenda, remedies are prescribed for conditions in what the Committee predicted would become "the most afflicted region in the world" by 1995 if present trends hold.



UNHCR Photo 19111/M. Amar

Africa gets a 'New Agenda'.

To avoid that and place the continent on a path to growth, the three-part plan recognizes the necessity for a new and stronger accord between Africa and the international community, and elaborates on what Africa and the developed countries commit themselves to do.

Innovative measures

In particular, the New Agenda calls for "innovative and bold measures" to tackle Africa's external debt, which exceeded $270 billion in 1990 and requires over 30 per cent of the continent's exports to service.

The Committee noted that donor countries had already cancelled or rescheduled some African debt, and an appeal was made to the international community to undertake further measures. These include the write-off of private commercial debt, debt-equity swaps, debt buybacks, and debt for environment schemes. An international conference on Africa's external indebtedness was also proposed.

In his report, the Secretary-General noted that over the last five years, economic and social conditions in Africa had actually worsened, despite the "many far-reaching actions and reforms undertaken by African countries, including notable progress towards democratization". Although economic output had grown on average by 2.3 per cent, gross domestic product in per capita terms fell by 0.7 per cent.

The causes of such poor performance, he reported, were falling commodity prices and reduced export earnings, "a crippling debt and debt-servicing burden", and inadequate net resource flows. Continuing drought, political instability, civil strife, military conflicts, weak institutions and ineffective policies to utilize domestic resources were both cause and consequence.

He cited a target of 6 per cent annual growth rate to be achieved by Africa's economies during the 1990s, an objective affirmed in the New Agenda. Both development assistance and debt reduction would

be needed, the Secretary-General stated. African debt was of "little value to its creditors", but a major obstacle to Africa's recovery, and nothing would better demonstrate the international community's concern for Africa "than a bold action on debt relief".

The New Agenda also calls for aggressive action regarding inadequate resource flows to the continent and insufficient commodity diversification. To remedy the latter, the Agenda proposes a feasibility study on the establishment of an African diversification fund.

African nations, in turn, would commit themselves to: structural reforms of their economies; democratization of development; creation of an environment attractive to foreign and domestic investment; and improvement in human rights, among other policies.

With a mid-term review of the New Agenda proposed for 1996, two high-level Economic and Social Council sessions—in 1995 and in 1998—are to be devoted to the plan and a final review by the General Assembly is slated for the year 2000.

A unique call for help

The original five-year Programme of Action to revitalize and develop the economies of Africa was adopted at the thirteenth special session of the Assembly (27 May-1 June 1986, New York). It addressed the continent's critical needs in the aftermath of continuing crises resulting from severe drought, civil strife, crumbling economic infrastructures and other factors. The special session was proposed by African Heads of State themselves, and was the first ever devoted to the problems of a single region.

Crucial priority areas addressed included: agriculture and such agricultural-support sectors as transportation and distribution; drought and desertification and other environmental factors; human resources, including education, the "brain drain" and the role of women and youth; and policy reforms, including management of economies and population problems.

The Programme provided an analysis of Africa's critical economic situation; an inventory of objectives and costs of specific action-oriented measures to be taken at national, sub-regional and regional levels; suggestions for international commitments, including debt constraints and South-South cooperation; and follow-up and evaluation machinery.

Full implementation of the original programme was expected to require $128.1 billion over the five-year period, with African nations to provide $82.5 billion. Approximately $46 billion was to come from "external resources".

In The News: Africa not forgotten

African countries have been strongly voicing their fears in recent months that the continent is being "marginalized". Recent speeches by African Heads of State in the general debate at this year's General Assembly gave ample evidence of their concern that, with the end of the Cold War, developments in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Middle East are preoccupying the majority of leading donor countries.

Yet the recent experience of the Department of Public Information in launching the Secretary-General's Report on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa has shown that there remains substantial international interest in the continent, even when dramatic events are happening elsewhere in the world.

The Report was issued towards the end of August, when the world was still intensely preoccupied with the failed attempt to overthrow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Nevertheless, thanks to a concerted media campaign that combined substantive and well-presented information material with a series of press conferences and briefings by senior UN officials in different capitals, coverage in the world's media was remarkable. This coverage created considerable interest in the actual two-week Ad Hoc Committee Review of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) held in New York in the first two weeks of September.

Some 200 articles have appeared so far in newspapers throughout the world on both the Report itself and on the Review. In addition, the Report was carried on prime-time TV news programmes in Europe and North America, as well as in many African countries.

Naturally, much of the press coverage has occurred in Africa. Newspapers throughout the continent have carried detailed articles on the Secretary-General's report. But the response in Western media, where the competition for foreign news space is intense, was particularly encouraging. Some 20 or more leading dailies in major European and Northern American countries, as well as in Japan, gave extensive coverage.

"UN Renewing Effort To Rescue Sliding African Economies", said the *Christian Science Monitor* on its front page. Most leading papers followed *Le Monde* in giving prominence to the Secretary-General's warning that Africa faces "an unrelenting crisis".

Both *The New York Times* and *The London Times* drew attention to the Secretary-General's call for a cancelling of Africa's official bilateral debts which was also featured, along with the call for increased aid flows, in the extensive coverage given by Canada's *Globe and Mail*. Perhaps the headline for the story in *The Economist* best summed up the coverage, "Remembering Africa".

Dateline: Development

World Bank:
Global economy down

World Bank lending for fiscal year 1991 topped $22 billion, an increase of $2 billion from fiscal 1990, and commitments for 1992 could reach $25 billion, according to *The World Bank Annual Report 1991*, released in September. The Report also noted that it was a year of setbacks for the global economy. Most of the poor got poorer, while the rich did not get richer on the whole. Only in some developing countries of East Asia was growth vigorous.

Covering the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, the Report stated that, as North America and the United Kingdom slipped into recession, the growth rate—2.3 per cent—in the low- and middle-income countries was the lowest since 1982. To find a similar period when developing countries grew more slowly than industrialized countries, "one has to go as far back as 1966 and 1967", it stated.

Reaffirming the eradication of poverty as its top priority, the lending agency announced it had adopted a long-term, two-pronged approach to poverty reduction in fiscal 1991, aiming to encourage economic growth by productive use of the "poor's most abundant asset—their labour", and by investment in social services.

International Monetary Fund:
Loan demand high

The demand for assistance for Eastern European countries switching from central planning to market-oriented economies accounted for most International Monetary Fund (IMF) commitments to members for 1990/1991, it was reported in October. Total lending for the financial year ended 30 April 1991 was nearly $8 billion, according to the IMF 1991 Annual Report. That was about half of what was committed in 1989/1990, but still higher than any other year since 1984/1985.

Another striking feature of 1991 was a sharp surge in commitments at the eleventh hour. Loans to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania accounted for almost two thirds of the year's lending, all of which were made in the last four months.

Also contributing to the last-minute surge were loans relating to the Gulf crisis, under a new "oil element" added to the compensatory and contingency financing facility.

The Report predicted that the recession which began in a number of industrial countries in 1990 would be "relatively short-lived", but that the outlook for developing countries was "less favourable than had been expected".

Economic Survey:
Good and bad news

For the first time since the Second World War, total world production and income have fallen, according to an update of the *World Economic Survey*, issued in October by the the UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Until this year, economic growth in some parts of the world has always been enough to offset economic decline elsewhere, it was stated.

However, in 1991, economic malaise was so widespread and deep that the healthy trends in some Asian and Latin American countries were not nearly enough to compensate for recessionary aches and pains in major industrialized countries and severe trauma to the economic fibre of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

After evaluating region by region the world's economic health, the Survey stated that recovery in the developed market economies would begin in 1992, while some key multilateral decisions with potentially major impact on the global economy, including the Uruguay Round, were still pending.

The *World Economic Survey Update* was to be reviewed by the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

UNCTAD:
Move to conservative approach

Recent trends are away from trade liberalization in developed market economies, even as many developing countries and transitional economies of Central and Eastern Europe embrace it wholeheartedly. This reversal of traditional stance is "unmistakable and at the same time unique in historical terms", the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reports.

The move towards protectionism can be seen in the developed world's tendency to manage trade in a selective way, in a worrisome erosion of the most favoured-nation principle, increased use of voluntary export restraints and a steady rise in outstanding anti-dumping cases. Non-tariff measures now cover more imports than they did in the early 1980s.

UNCTAD's *Trade and Development Report, 1991*, projecting a "modest recovery" in 1992, also focuses on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, in particular on three of seven negotiating areas of crucial importance to developing countries: agricultural reform; trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights; and banking services. The four remaining areas are textiles and clothing, rule making and trade-related investment measures, market access and institutions.

'Earth Summit'

Preparatory Committee narrows options for 'Agenda 21'

Proposals to achieve environmentally sound, sustainable economic development in all countries—known collectively as "Agenda 21"—were thoroughly discussed by the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at its third substantive session (12 August-4 September, Geneva).

The Conference, informally known as the "Earth Summit", is to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 12 June 1992. Its main objective is to devise ways to change human economic behaviour so that the natural environment of the planet is conserved.

During the session, the Preparatory Committee agreed on a framework for "Agenda 21", which is to be adopted in Rio de Janeiro, as a comprehensive blueprint for action into the twenty-first century. The Committee narrowed options for programmes within the document aimed at ensuring sustainable development in all areas where economic activity has an impact on the natural environment.

Agreement was also reached on a text—the "Earth Charter" or "Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development"—that will form the basis for commitment by States to Conference goals. While it will not establish any strict legal obligations, it will be morally binding on signatory States.

A provisional agenda for the "Earth Summit", together with rules of procedure and an organizational plan of work, was approved at the session.

On specific issues, the Committee decided that a human settlements dimension should be included in all relevant sectoral programmes and that strengthened implementation of the UN Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 should be formed as a major element of "Agenda 21".

"We have moved a long and positive step towards success in Rio de Janeiro", Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the 1992 Conference, told delegates at the session.

Tommy Koh of Singapore, Preparatory Committee Chairman, said substantial progress had been made on the difficult issues of finance for sustainable development in developing countries and on the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

Working groups

Good progress was reported in the Preparatory Committee's Working Group I on the issue of forests. Proposals on biological diversity and biotechnology were expected to emerge at the next session. Also to be considered would be mountainous regions as fragile ecosystems and proposals relating to the energy sector.

Working Group II agreed to discuss programme elements for "Agenda 21" on the protection of oceans and development aspects of fresh water. Proposals on hazardous and solid wastes would focus on minimizing production, better disposal management and improved recycling programmes, as well as wider ratification of existing conventions.

Working Group III reviewed existing environmental law, with a view to proposing ways to fill gaps that are identified.

Brazilian soccer player Pele *(left)* receives Earth Summit T-shirt from UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong.

UN Photo 177910/M. Grant

Environmental awareness high among TNCs, Benchmark Survey finds

The number of transnational corporations (TNCs) reportedly engaging in practices that could be labelled "environmentally sound" is surprisingly high, according to a survey by the UN Centre on TNCs (UNCTC). As many as 90 per cent of respondents reported "sustainable development activities" already in use or under consideration. Such activities run the gamut, from simple recycling to new methods of controlling pollution, increasing energy efficiency and reducing waste.

The survey was undertaken at the request of the Economic and Social Council *(resolution 1990/71)* as part of preparations for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The study—known as the "Benchmark Corporate Environmental Survey"—attempts to gauge the current state of corporate environmental management, with a view to documenting the most advanced practices as models for companies with no programmes yet in place.

The survey asked chief executive officers of 794 TNCs, with sales of over $1 billion, to list which five of the nine environmental themes on the UNCED agenda were of most immediate concern to them. Twenty per cent—163 firms—responded, a good rate of return given the acknowledged "high political contentiousness surrounding the issues of environment and development", UNCTC reported.

Air quality leads list

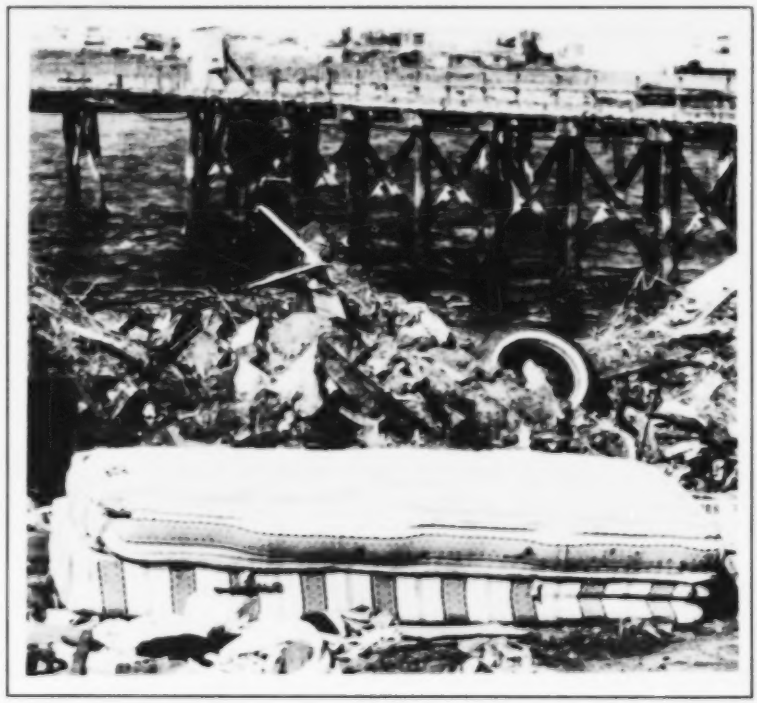
Of the nine UNCED themes, atmospheric protection was considered the most important by the largest number of respondents. The majority reported that company-wide policies went beyond those required by national air pollution legislation. More than a third stated that they undertook research and development for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The question of environmentally sound management of toxic substances and hazardous wastes was also high on the list. A third reported educating their workforce or surrounding communities on the safe handling of such substances.

Also included in the top five were protection of human health, protection of freshwater supplies and protection and management of land resources. The remaining themes were conservation of biological diversity, environmentally sound management of biotechnology, protection of the oceans and improvement of the environment of the urban and rural poor.

Greening of the TNCs?

Despite the high level of environmental consciousness reported by TNCs, the Centre warned against



UN Photo 115941/Y. Nagata

Trash at a landfill site. Controlling pollution is the goal.

using survey statistics to support too rosy a conclusion about the greening of the international corporate landscape.

For one thing, the survey dealt with corporate policies and plans as reported by the companies themselves; it made no attempt to assess the degree to which their claims were actually carried out.

For another, generalizations beyond the sample were considered dangerous, as TNCs with a strong environmental record were more likely to respond to the questionnaire than those with a weak record.

The survey also threw some light on grey areas in the overall picture. Two thirds of the respondents reported emitting nitrogen oxides, one third generating dioxins and a minority continuing to manufacture goods containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which damage the ozone layer.

The survey also identified 34 corporate activities with potential for serious detrimental environmental effects. The respondents admitted involvement in an average of 8.3 such activities.

Recommendations

The results of the Benchmark Survey and recommendations based on its findings were published by the UNCTC in a series of five booklets released at the UNCED preparatory meeting in Geneva in August. Among recommendations pertinent to the atmosphere were: increase international cooperation so that TNCs are better informed of the impact of their operations on the greenhouse phenomenon; include TNCs in the consultative process for climate change; and treat dioxins and PCBs as international, not just local pollution problems.

Other recommendations were: transnational affiliates in developing countries should handle toxic wastes according to the same rules as in developed countries; the international community should stress the importance of clean surface water, the source of most drinking water in developing countries; TNCs should create safety zones around their facilities to lessen the potential impact of accidents; priority status should be given to protecting the oceans from land-based pollution sources; TNCs should sponsor programmes to save wetlands and rainforests to protect biodiversity; and TNCs should help develop a code of conduct on biotechnology.

The Centre stressed the need to reduce differences in environmental rules and regulations, and noted respondents' interest in a strong UN role in setting international guidelines. More than half of them did not use current international guidelines and many were unaware of their existence.

Energy experts review 1981 Nairobi action plan

An intergovernmental group of experts has concluded that the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy is still valid, despite slow progress in realizing many of its goals.

New priorities should reflect concern for the environment, a subject not considered when the Plan was adopted at a global conference in Kenya in 1981. Also, other priorities should be reshuffled to reflect changes over the last decade in such areas as finance, economic growth and the state of development of energy technologies.

The experts urged promotion of mature, cost-effective technologies that are "environmentally benign". Some examples are: low- and moderate-temperature solar energy in domestic and industrial applications; large-scale electricity production using solar and wind technology; and programmes using fuelwood and charcoal.

The group, in its 10-year review and assessment of the global plan at a special meeting in New York from 26 to 30 August, considered progress reports on specific new and renewable sources of energy, which include solar, wind and geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, biomass, tar sands and oil shale sources, as well as such traditional sources as fuelwood and charcoal, peat and draught animal power.

About 14 per cent of the world's total energy supply comes from these sources. While their use has increased in some countries, the rate of increase has failed to live up to expectations, the experts concluded.

Part of the reason for the slow progress was that the 1981 Programme was formulated in an era of high oil prices, which focused world attention on alternatives to fossil fuels. Since then, the situation has changed drastically, "with an unfavourable impact" on the Programme's implementation.

In effect, increased energy efficiency in the developed world, especially in the early 1980s, led to an oil glut and a sharp decline in oil prices. As a result, the search for energy alternatives lost momentum.

The group's report will be presented to the UN Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, at its sixth session in February 1992.

A Look Back . . . 25 years ago

The Human Rights Covenants:

Tools in the 'struggle of enforcement'

UN Photo 97060

Signing the Covenant—a 1966 landmark event.

People illegally imprisoned have been freed, victims of human rights violations have been compensated and national laws have been improved thanks to two important United Nations treaties—the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Together with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Optional Protocol, the Covenants form the International Bill of Human Rights, a document based on the premise that Governments must answer for the way they treat individuals and must be judged by international standards.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Covenants' adoption will be observed by the General Assembly on 16 December.

The Covenants are part of a system which protects human rights worldwide. Governments which have signed them must report to the UN on how they ensure respect for human rights. Under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, individuals claiming that their rights have been violated can appeal directly to the UN for redress.

The Universal Declaration was adopted by the Assembly in 1948. The Declaration proclaims that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". It spells out the rights and freedoms of all members of the human family, and has become a yardstick by which to measure the degree of respect for and compliance with international human rights standards.

The Declaration's principles were transformed into legally binding norms through the two Covenants and the Optional Protocol. These instruments were adopted by the Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force in 1976. As of 31 March, 99 countries had become parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 95 had ratified the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and 52 had ratified the Optional Protocol.

What the Covenants say

The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the right of every human being to: life, liberty and security; privacy; freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and from torture; freedom from slavery; immunity from arbitrary arrest; a fair trial; recognition as a person before the law; immunity from retroactive sentences; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of opinion and expression; liberty of movement; peaceful assembly; and freedom of association.

The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right to: work and to free choice of employment; fair wages; form and join unions; social security;

special protection for families, mothers, children and young persons; adequate standards of living, including food, clothing and housing; health; education; and participation in cultural life.

Both Covenants proclaim the right of all people to self-determination and guarantee the rights they proclaim without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Both assume that human rights may need to be restricted when unfettered exercise would interfere with the rights of others, although nothing in them should be taken to imply that anyone has the right to seek to destroy or unduly limit the rights set out in those instruments.

However, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights allows a State to limit or suspend the enjoyment of certain rights in cases of officially "proclaimed public emergencies which threaten the life of a nation".

These limitations must be reported to the UN and cannot include the rights to life, freedom from torture, freedom from enslavement or servitude, protection from imprisonment for debt, freedom from retroactive penal laws, the right to recognition as a person before the law, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

UN Committees

Special committees have been created to oversee implementation of human rights covenants, for example, the Human Rights Committee which deals with civil and political rights, and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. They review in public reports from States on measures taken to give effect to the treaties and progress achieved in those nations.

Each body has 18 members, experts who serve in their individual capacity. They ask representatives of States, who present the reports orally, detailed and often pointed questions about the situations in their countries, and may ask for more information.

Under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, individuals who feel they are victims of human rights violations can file a complaint with the Committee. If the Committee deems the complaint admissible, it is brought to the attention of the State allegedly violating the Covenant. The State must submit, within six months, explanations clarifying the matter and indicating the remedy, if any, that it has taken.

The number of complaints have grown substantially in recent years. Several refer to cases of alleged killings by police, disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrests.

UN Photo

"Some rights are more broken than others", says Committee member Rosalyn Higgins of the United Kingdom. "At the heart of the complaints, we see a great number that deal with issues related to security of the person—the right to be free from torture and physical maltreatment and the right to life. Unfortunately, we see cases that relate to disappearances. We see quite a few cases making allegations about a lack of fair trial. We also see some cases . . . about limitations on freedom of speech or freedom of religion or trade union rights, and freedom of movement."

The struggle continues

"The Covenants and the Optional Protocol have become an important tool in the struggle to enforce human rights in the world", says Paul Martin, Director of the Center of Human Rights at Columbia University's School of International Affairs. "Human rights activists are now able to point to something concrete when dealing with violators of human rights. This is it—the Covenants—a reference point with which we can measure human rights standards. So one can say that the Covenants are definitely used to make countries improve their human rights records, even if they have not signed any of the Covenants or the Optional Protocol, just by the fact that it shows an international momentum, a commitment to human rights, which it is hard for any country to overlook."

"The strength of the Covenants is that, once a country has ratified them, the Governments have to submit reports on the situation of human rights", says Elissavet Stamatopoulou-Robbins, Chief of the New York Office of the Centre for Human Rights. "This allows the United Nations the ability to check on countries' human rights policies and to encourage changes in the right direction. Ratification of the Covenant means not only holding countries accountable, but also building long-term national infrastructure for the protection and promotion of human rights."

Human rights

Minorities Subcommission discusses discrimination problems

A wide variety of issues, including religious intolerance, contemporary forms of slavery, problems of women, children and youth and the relationship between human rights and the environment, was discussed by the UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-third session (5-30 August, Geneva).

Also debated were problems of specific minorities and discrimination against indigenous peoples, the disabled, and people afflicted with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

The 26-member body wanted a global consultation on the position and approaches of different religions to human rights. It also invited States which had Roma (gypsy) communities living within their borders to take measures to ensure the *de jure* and *de facto* equality of members of those communities.

The Subcommission supported the proposal for a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to begin in 1993.

The subsidiary body of the UN Commission on Human Rights continued its standard-setting activities, notably on the elaboration of international norms relating to the rights of indigenous peoples.

International and financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, were urged to take greater account of the adverse impact of their policies and programmes of structural adjustment on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

Governments were called on to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession as fundamental elements in the protection of human rights.

The Subcommission, by secret ballot, adopted resolutions on the human rights situation in various countries and regions. That procedure was recently authorized to enhance the Subcommission's independence.

It also considered, in closed session, communications from individuals and other sources related to situations which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights.

Children in war

The Subcommission, in calling for measures to stop the recruitment of children into armed forces, expressed deep concern that in many parts of the world children continued to take part in hostilities, with the encouragement of some Governments and non-governmental entities.

Children who had been trained to hate and had participated in armed conflicts were often mentally and morally crippled for life, the Sub-Commission stated, deploring the fact that many child soldiers had been killed or seriously injured and that others languished as prisoners of war.

The Subcommission invited Governments to limit the introduction of states of emergency, particularly in the case of internal unrest, exclusively to situations sufficiently serious and exceptional to justify them, in order to avoid making the use of states of emergency common place and thus possibly perpetuating them. Internal legislation consistent with the requirements of international instruments concerning states of emergency was backed.

It also held its first joint meeting with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, considering issues of common interest, including protection of vulnerable groups such as migrant workers. The two bodies also considered their joint contribution to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, as well as the potential conflict between the right to freedom of expression and the struggle against racial discrimination.

World Conference proposed for Berlin

The Preparatory Committee for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights (9-13 September, Geneva) proposed that the high-level global meeting be convened in Berlin for a period of two weeks.

A draft provisional agenda and rules of procedure are to be considered at the Committee's next session, one of three to be held in Geneva (two in 1992 and one in 1993).

In 1990, the General Assembly decided that such a Conference should review and assess progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as identify the means to overcome obstacles to further progress in that area.

007 for the 'under-7s'

Helping children smile

By Elsa B. Endrst

"What I really want to do is make children smile", said British actor Roger Moore, best known for his cinematic portrayal of Special Agent 007—James Bond.

And in Mr. Moore's view, children can only smile if their stomachs are full and if they are healthy. "If we have healthy children who are smiling, we might have a smiling world. People who smile don't hit one another and", he added, "wouldn't that be lovely!"

In August, he was appointed United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Special Representative for the Film Arts at a ceremony held at UN Headquarters in New York.

Accompanied by his 18-year old son, Christian, Mr. Moore immediately undertook his first mission for the agency. They visited UNICEF-assisted facilities in Central America, including health and sanitation centres, schools and projects for street children and community development. The countries visited were Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

After the trip, Mr. Moore told a press conference in Dallas: "A week ago, I helped introduce running water to a village in Guatemala. I was privileged to turn on the tap which the community had built with UNICEF assistance. It was a most fascinating time. I knew all about the conditions of poverty from reading the official statistics, but I really wanted to put some faces to those statistics."

Mr. Moore's involvement with UNICEF dates back to the early 1980s when he promoted UNICEF greeting cards in radio commercials. He has served as its spokesman at the Zecchino D'Oro song festival in Bologna, Italy, and co-hosted with actress Audrey Hepburn—another UNICEF goodwill ambassador—the Danny Kaye International Children's Award television programmes in 1990 and 1991, beamed from the Netherlands.

In this new role with UNICEF, Mr. Moore joins 10 other internationally-known figures in promoting the cause of children worldwide. Said Richard Jolly, UNICEF Deputy Director: "Double-0-7 is pledging double efforts for the under 7s" and all needy children around the world who need help.

UNICEF Photo

Actor Roger Moore, spokesman for UNICEF, with Guatemalan children.

UNICEF Celebrity Spokespersons

Goodwill Ambassadors		*Since*
Sir Peter Ustinov, actor, director	UK	1968
Liv Ullmann, actress	Norway	1980
Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, TV personality	Japan	1984
Harry Belafonte, singer, actor	US	1987
Sir Richard Attenborough, director	UK	1987
Audrey Hepburn, actress	UK	1988
Special Representative for Sports		
Imran Khan, cricket player	Pakistan	1988
Special Representative for the Performing Arts		
Julio Iglesias, singer	Spain	1989
Youssou N'Dour, musician	Senegal	1991
Special Representative for the Children of the Himalayas		
Sir Edmund Hillary, explorer	New Zealand	1991
Special Representative for the Film Arts		
Roger Moore, actor	United Kingdom	1991

National spokespersons also represent UNICEF in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy and the United States.

The United Nations International School: A model of diversity

By Elsa B. Endrst

UNIS Photo 123/L. Wiener

United Nations International School, Manhattan.

On the edge of the East River, about a mile south of UN Headquarters in Manhattan, stands the United Nations International School (UNIS), a model of ethnic diversity and scholastic achievement.

Here, approximately 1,300 students of 117 nationalities are instructed by teachers from 45 countries. And, in the opinion of UNIS Director Joseph J. Blaney, the school is "authentically global in spirit, in curriculum, in mission and in its purpose".

About one half of the student body are sons and daughters of diplomats and UN staff members, while the remainder are from families of various backgrounds in the New York City area.

There are two campuses: the Manhattan school with classes from Kindergarten through the 12th grade; and a two-story school in a quiet suburban setting in Queens, with 186 students in Kindergarten to the sixth grade.

The UNIS curriculum is rich in literature, science, mathematics, world history, physical education, biology, chemistry and physics. Languages, not surprisingly, are particularly stressed. Ten are regularly offered—English, French, Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish and Russian—and taught by native speakers.

But its curriculum is not as nationally oriented as some of the almost 400 other international schools around the world. "We try to use texts from as many countries as possible, especially in humanities. And the teachers bring with them pieces of their own culture, beyond their teaching abilities", says Mrs. Sylvia Fuhrman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNIS.

Another important educational aspect is the International Baccalaureate (IB) degree that is offered. This rigorous pre-university programme for 11th- and 12th-grade students leads to a special international examination which fulfils the requirements of the many national education systems outside the United States. The IB, as it is called, is not based on the pattern of any single country.

First established in Geneva in 1965 under Swiss law, some 400 schools in 57 countries now offer this degree. UNIS in 1970 became the first school in North America to give IB exams.

Normally, at least 50 per cent of UNIS students opt for the programme and some 90 per cent of those who do not follow it do take individual IB courses as part of their UNIS education.

A brief history

UNIS was founded in 1947 by a group of UN parents who were aware of a proposal by educators at New York and Columbia Universities for an international school in New York. It had a modest beginning as a nursery school for 20 children

of 15 nationalities at the UN site in Lake Success.

In 1950, the school relocated to Parkway Village in Queens, where many UN staff members lived. That school is the predecessor of the Jamaica Estates UNIS of today, whose principal is Adina Vanderpuye of Ghana.

In 1955, UNIS opened a secondary school at what was then a public school on First Avenue in Manhattan. At the same time, a pilot elementary school branch was also opened.

In 1965, the Ford Foundation made an initial grant of $7.5 million, supplemented later by an additional $4 million, towards constructing a new building in New York City. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund also contributed significantly to the new building at its riverside site, off 25th Street.

Finally, in 1973 the building was completed and UNIS moved permanently to its East River location.

The "English as a Second Language (ESL)" programme is of particular importance at this unusual school, an example of how it effectively deals with its multilingual, multi-cultural aspects.

"We have students at every age level, from 5 to 16, who come to us with no knowledge of English", says Mrs. Fuhrman.

"With our very strong ESL programme, which I believe surpasses most other schools, our children learn English within six months of beginning."

In a period of two years, she continues, they even "speak New Yorkese. In most programmes, it takes six years to acquire the kind of language skills we provide in less than half the time. This is why people from other countries come to observe us."

Mrs. Fuhrman is quick to point out, however, that the school does not really encourage assimilation. "We encourage the students in their diversity because that is what makes the school so very special", she stresses. In other words, UNIS wants its young people to maintain their cultural heritage while living abroad.

Diverse, challenging

The UNIS brochure notes: "A child who enters UNIS at the age of five discovers an environment that is diverse and challenging, because of the opportunity to learn with friends from different places, with different backgrounds and cultures. UNIS teachers, who also come from many countries, understand and respect these differences."

At the Queens campus, special topics are integrated into a number of classroom curricula. A case in point: during the Gulf crisis, social studies teachers discussed the physical location and the history of the region, while other teachers dealt with the mathematics of rising and falling oil prices, or music, art and other cultural aspects.

"Children learn much faster that way and they are much more interested because the subject continues to permeate the atmosphere wherever they go", Mrs. Vanderpuye said.

While many public schools in America are multi-ethnic, when it comes to food, children in the United States seem single-minded—hamburgers, french fries and pizza are prime. Not necessarily so in UNIS in Queens, says Mrs. Vanderpuye. Since many of these youngsters are far removed from their native country at an early age, a special bond seems to exist between the students, even when it comes to eating.

"Our children here eat anything from any place because they appreciate and trust each other", the principal notes. Communal dinners are held often, underscoring her point. Since the school is so small, the children and teachers get to know each other quickly. "It's almost like a family", Mrs. Vanderpuye says warmly.

For nine-year-old Allegra Hall, according to her Argentinian mother,

UNIS Photo

Students at UNIS: A diverse, challenging environment.

the school offers "an opportunity to learn respect for people who are different from her in looks, lifestyle and religion, while getting an education from a global perspective".

At first glance, the UN School in Manhattan appears more worldly than the modest Queens campus. With its modern playground and indoor garden, it is both charming and architecturally elegant.

Seated in his spacious office overlooking the river, Director Blaney reflects a calm, quiet energy. If anything makes the school different from others, it is the fact that it is truly international. "We are multicultural, multiracial", he says. "We represent most races and religions. Some students have been working and playing together at the UN schools for nearly half a century." And, he adds, "in that sense, although we've never claimed it to be such, it is a kind of model diversity. Maybe it's because we've never made much of it that it works so well."

Although UNIS has no legal connection with the UN—it operates as an independent, private school—six members of its Board are appointed by the UN Secretary-General, with one of those appointees serving as Chairman.

A $10-million endowment is provided each year from private, as well as UN sources. The UN also offers its printing and other services to the school, and every spring, the UNIS graduation ceremony is held in the UN General Assembly Hall.

There is great pride in Director Blaney's voice when he speaks of his students at UNIS. "There is so much in the world that is bleak and discouraging, as well as frustrating", he says. "But it is a constant source of encouragement and optimism for me to see how these young people here care about each other and how they take life and their work seriously."

A different kind of Model UN

The United Nations International School sponsors a rich and different kind of Model UN programme, which has taken place in the UN General Assembly Hall for the past 15 years.

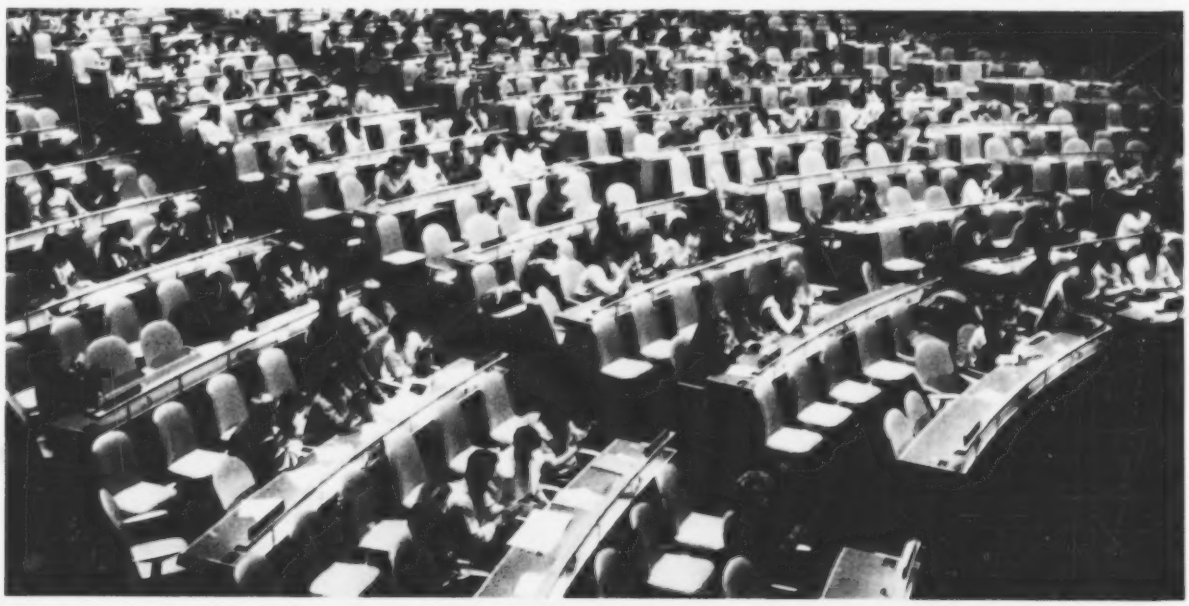
It is conducted by 11th- and 12th-grade students who select a theme of universal importance, such as environment and human rights, and prepare working papers for discussion.

The objective is to present and assess various views on the issue, in order to stimulate student interest and enable them to understand world problems better.

During a two-day session, usually held in early spring, participants take their seats in the Assembly Hall to debate the conference theme.

Distinguished speakers, including diplomats, academics and specialists in various fields, also address the conference.

Students from a select number of schools in the New York area and across the country also attend the session.



UNIS Photo

The Model UN: Learning about diplomacy

By Elsa B. Endrst

Every year, some 60,000 young people across the United States, as well as in many other places in the world, gather in gymnasiums, auditoriums and classrooms to participate in a unique international programme.

The Model UN is a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly, in which high school and college students assume the role of "ambassadors" to the UN and debate current issues on the UN agenda.

The UN Association of the United States (UNA-USA) provides a Model UN "Survival Kit" to teachers, students and organizations involved in this exciting project. The kit contains background material on UN issues and a guide to delegate preparation.

Beyond these materials, UNA-USA also conducts an annual Model UN seminar in New York each fall for faculty advisers and student leaders. The event attracts representatives from most major Model UN programmes worldwide.

For many participants, it heightens their appreciation of the complexities of international politics, with a chance to understand foreign countries better and to become aware of how political, economic and cultural misunderstandings cause war. It also helps broaden general knowledge of other nations. "They experience the thrill of accomplishment and the common frustration of politics", said James Muldoon, Jr., UNA-USA Director of Model UN Youth Programs.

The concept for the programme originated in the 1920s when a small group of Harvard University students organized a Model League of Nations.

The Model UN is based on two basic elements. First, students undergo an intensive preparation process, researching the countries they will represent, organizing positions, preparing policy papers and draft resolutions, and practising rules of procedure. In this way, participants obtain the information and have the skills needed for the second stage—the actual Model UN Conference.

In order to persuade representatives of other Member States, the student "ambassadors" must know intimately their country's policies. They must exercise persuasive writing and speaking techniques and demonstrate leadership and diplomatic qualities. The students become involved in caucusing, negotiating and consensus-building. As a result, they not only learn about the UN, but also develop a global perspective and an appreciation for the dynamics of our interdependent world.

"During my research period, I was stimulated to keep up with all international events, not only those that affect the United States but European countries as well", Reagan Moore, a high school student from Westminister, Maryland, wrote of her experience at a Model UN. It also furthered her own desire to pursue a career in the United States foreign service, she said.

Over the past eight years, Model UNs have literally spread like wildfire and, at the present time, are conducted in 40 of the 50 States, as well as in Canada, Europe and Egypt.

In March 1988, the first Model UN exchange programme with the Soviet Union took place. Five students from the Moscow State Institute for International Relations participated in Model UNs in Boston and New York.

Such UN conferences range in size from fewer than 100 to more than 2,000 delegates. In addition, numerous classroom and "micro" Model UNs are conducted in schools throughout the world.

The Hague International Model UN has grown from a modest beginning 20 years ago to providing a forum for well over 2,000 high school delegates from throughout Europe and the United States. Mr. Muldoon notes that there is growing interest in Eastern Europe, as well as in Asia and Latin America.

At the most recent Model UN seminar organized by the UNA-USA, participants from as far away as East Africa came to New York to learn how to conduct model UNs.

Muldoon says that students continue to tell him that "the Model UN is the most exciting and fun participatory educational activity for any age".

For information, contact: *Director, Model UN and Youth Programs, United Nations Association of the United States of America, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 (Telephone (212) 697-3232).*

Chronicle BookWatch

The World's Women, 1970-1990 Trends and Statistics

UN Publications, New York, 1991
135 pp., $19.95. Sales No. E.90.XVII.3
ISBN 92-1-161313-2

An extraordinary collaborative effort of a dozen UN bodies has produced this remarkable statistical source-book, essentially a report on the state of the world's women. Designed "to provide the numbers and analysis needed to understand how conditions are changing for women—and to do it in a way that will reach women, the media and women's advocates everywhere"—the book will be an indispensable reference tool for political and social action. Chapters deal with families and households, women in public life and leadership, education, health and child-bearing, human settlements and the environment, work and the economy.

Notes for Speakers: Environment and Development

UN Department of Public Information
United Nations, New York, 1991. 79 pp.

Much has been published in preparation for Earth Summit '92, but this booklet is among the very best of its kind for the non-expert. Stressing the theme of "poverty is dangerous to your planet's health and so is greed", the text skillfully balances development with environment and economics with ecology. Human resources development, the appropriate use of science and technology, international environmental law and the role of non-governmental organizations are surveyed.

The Kirkpatrick Mission Diplomacy Without Apology: America at the United Nations, 1981-1985

Allan Gerson
The Free Press, New York, 1991
333 pp., $22.95. ISBN 0-02-911611-2

Allan Gerson was Jeane J. Kirkpatrick's legal counsel during her tenure as the United States Permanent Representative to the UN from 1981 to 1985. An able writer with a keen eye for detail, he offers a behind-the-scenes view of American UN policymaking during what he calls the "turbulent term" of the "embattled" ambassador. Even readers who disagree with Mr. Gerson's interpretations of international law and the recent history of the UN will find his book illuminating.

The International Law of Arms Control and Disarmament: Proceedings of the Symposium, Geneva, 28 February-2 March 1991

Edited by Julie Dahlitz and Detlev Dicke
UN Publications, New York, 1991
240 pp., $29.50. Sales No. GV.E.91.0.14
ISBN 92-1-133343-1 (Softbound)

These proceedings of the first symposium on the international law of arms control and disarmament mark a significant moment in world affairs. Never before had academic lawyers, legal practitioners, negotiators and experts from the UN system come together to consider the place of this relatively new field in the larger structure of law. The papers of the participants dealt with the practical problems of arms control treaties, the legal aspects of verification, the role of the UN in negotiating agreements, and other subjects. What made this symposium especially useful was the opportunity it gave for the interaction of Western experts with their Soviet colleagues. Clearly, new perspectives in international law were opened.

The AIDS Epidemic and Its Demographic Consequences

UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
World Health Organization
UN Publications, New York and Geneva, 1991
150 pp., Sales No. E.91.XIII.5 ISBN 92-1-151224-7

Mathematical models are vital for understanding the dynamics of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic. In some countries of the poorer regions where heterosexual and mother-to-infant transmission is common, AIDS may have a significant demographic impact but modelling efforts are not well developed. A workshop sponsored by the UN and the World Health Organization brought together in New York demographic researchers and health professionals to advance the modelling effort. The proceedings and technical papers published in this volume reveal the complexities, as well as the worldwide significance of the issues confronting the experts.

NEWS ALMANAC

Work on climate change treaty continues

An international treaty to counteract the global warming trend began to take shape at the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (9-20 September, Nairobi).

While progress on the draft treaty to be signed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 1991 was reported, differences between the North and the South remained. A UN official said it was not yet clear "how far industrialized countries, as a whole, will commit themselves to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases in order to create the space needed by the economies of the South to continue to grow over the next decades". Nevertheless, statements by the European Community, the United States and others were "aiming at convergence".

The Committee was set up by the General Assembly in December 1990 to develop a climate change convention. It is scheduled to meet again in December in Geneva and in February 1992 in New York.

Panel picked for Disaster Reduction Decade

Ten internationally known personalities have been appointed to a Special High-Level Council to steer the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990s) on a steady course. They are: Prime Minister M. Eugenia Charles of Dominica; Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand; former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda of Japan; former President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado of Mexico; Suzanne Mubarak, wife of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; Idé Oumarou, Special Advisor to the President of Niger and a former Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity; Lisbeth Palme, widow of slain Prime Minister of Sweden Olof Palme; Marilyn Quayle, wife of United States Vice-President Dan Quayle; Janez Stanovnik of Yugoslavia, member of the Presidency of Slovenia and one-time Economic Commission for Europe Executive-Secretary; and M. C. Zalikhanov, People's Deputy and Member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and academician with the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Opera star named UNESCO ambassador

Bettmann

Ms. Bumbry

International opera star Grace Bumbry has been named honorary ambassador of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in recognition of her artistic achievements and her efforts on behalf of disadvantaged members of society. The soprano received the honour in Prague, at a ceremony marking the conclusion of an international forum on Culture and Democracy held from 4 to 6 September. Ms. Bumbry is a patron of the United Negro College Fund, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund and other civil rights and educational organizations. She joins British actor Peter Ustinov and French designer Pierre Cardin, among others, in promoting UNESCO's objectives.

Decolonization Committee stresses self-determination

Although the goal of decolonization has been greatly advanced by Namibia's independence, efforts should be pursued to ensure that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories exercise self-determination. That view was repeatedly expressed during the 1991 session (21 February-23 August, New York) of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, commonly referred to as the Special Committee on decolonization.

At its conclusion, the 25-member body recommended nine draft resolutions and three decisions for adoption by the General Assembly's Fourth Committee *(see UN Chronicle, No.1, 1992)*.

Conference on seismic zonation held

The fourth International Conference on Seismic Zonation, held from 25 to 29 August at Stanford University in the United States, was aimed at safer construction and reduction of life and property losses from future earthquakes. Under review were zonation-related advances over the last decade in earth sciences, engineering, urban planning, social sciences and public policy.

Seismic zonation is the arrangement of an area, country or region into zones according to its disaster incidence, rate or intensity.

Sygma

Earthquake aftermath in Mexico.

Horn of Africa pledging conference held

The Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa advanced one third of the way towards its $400 million funding goal as a result of a pledging conference held in New York on 16 September.

James O. C. Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, who presided over the event, said that further contributions were expected from countries that had not yet had time to respond to a consolidated inter-agency appeal to assist some 22.5 million people in five nations of the Horn area—Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan.

Preston named Bank President

On 1 September, Lewis T. Preston became the eighth President of the World Bank, succeeding Barber B. Conable. Mr. Preston had been Chairman of the Executive Committee of J. P. Morgan and Co., Inc. He served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer from 1980 through 1989. Born in New York City in 1926, he is a United States Marine Corps veteran and Harvard graduate. Mr. Preston has stated his intention to streamline the World Bank's senior management structure and create a new regional office of the World Bank for Europe and the Soviet Union.

ICAO Conference: Change in air navigation systems

An agreement to change the present air navigation systems from ground-based to satellite-based was reached at the Tenth Air Navigation Conference of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), held in Montreal from 5 to 20 September.

Participants from 85 Contracting States and 13 international organizations called for improved flight safety, more efficient use of airspace, reduced congestion and more cost-effective operations by airlines.

The United States and the USSR will make available to all States their global navigation satellite systems, which together will provide global coverage by 1995. Both countries are now seeking development of a common receiver for aircraft.

Philippe Rochat of Switzerland was appointed ICAO Secretary-General for a three-year term, which began on 1 August. He succeeded S. S. Sidhu of India, who had been in office since 1988.

Action on human rights

Two UN human rights bodies continued monitoring international conventions by reviewing reports from Member States. The Human Rights Committee, which oversees the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, considered situations in Iraq, Jordan, Madagascar and Sudan at its forty-second session (8-26 July, Geneva). The fortieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (6-23 August, Geneva), which deals with the 1969 UN convention on that subject, scrutinized reports from Australia, Bulgaria, Iraq, Israel, Mexico and Syria.

Also, experts in the field addressed a workshop on international human rights instruments and reporting obligations, held in Moscow in the last week of August.

World Court News

Taslim Olawale Elias of Nigeria, a judge of the International Court of Justice at the Hague since 1976, died on 14 August. He had served as its Vice-President from 1979 to 1981 and as its President from 1981 to 1985. The Security Council is to recommend a successor in December.

UN Photo 163955/Y. Nagata

Mr. Elias

Also, a new case was brought before the Court on 8 July, when Qatar instituted proceedings against Bahrain, contesting the latter's sovereignty over "the Hawar islands and the shoals of Dibal and Qit'at Jaradah".

Important work of NGOs stressed at DPI meeting

As new vistas open for countries to work together in ways they had not done before, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the UN will become increasingly important. So stated Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar at the annual conference for NGOs, organized by the Department of Public Information in New York from 11 to 13 September.

Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, told the group that the Organization was not only one of Governments, but of peoples, and thus the actions of NGOs were extremely important.

Participants were concerned with new challenges and opportunities for NGO action, and the role of the media in the emerging world order. They discussed questions related to the environment, world trade, the search for peace, promoting economic and social justice through development, and the interrelationship between peace, justice and development in the work of the UN.

UNITAR looks to its future

A report on the future of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), prepared by special consultant Francis Blanchard, former ILO Director-General, was reviewed by the UNITAR Board of Trustees at a special session (9-11 September, New York). The report, which aims to redefine the mandate of the Institute in light of evolving UN tasks, will be considered by the General Assembly's forty-sixth session.

Prospects of Indian Ocean Conference debated

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, at its second and final session for 1991 (1-2 July, New York), discussed a possible three-stage plan for the proposed Conference on the Indian Ocean, with the final objective of implementing the 1971 General Assembly Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

The Committee specified that, following a first stage meeting to be held as early as next year in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the merit of two additional stages should be considered.

Stamp Corner

American caricaturist Al Hirschfeld has lent his remarkable talent to a first-day cover produced by the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), in observance of the fortieth anniversary of the UN Postal Administration (UNPA).

Featuring four officials of UNPA, the first-day cover accompanies a group of UN stamps reissued on the occasion of the UNPA anniversary.

WFUNA Photo

UNPA officials *(from top, clockwise)* Hugo Valdes (Geneva), Anthony Fouracre (Chief), Ricarda Winter Tourou (Vienna) and Rita Fernando (New York).

WFUNA Photo

Trygve Lie

This will be the second time that the 88-year-old Mr. Hirschfeld, who for years has made a weekly contribution to the Arts and Leisure section of the Sunday edition of *The New York Times*, has provided his art to the WFUNA philatelic programme. On 30 January 1987, his rendition of Trygve Lie was the subject of a first-day cover and limited edition lithograph in tribute to the first UN Secretary-General.

Mr. Hirschfeld's drawings can be seen in museums throughout the world. In August, breaking a long-standing policy, he became the first artist ever to be named on a United States Postal Service stamp booklet.

Coming Up. . .

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

January-March 1992

New York

15 January	States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 14th meeting
20-31 January	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 11th session
23-24 January	Commission on Transnational Corporations, 18th session, first part
3-14 February	Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 6th session
18-28 February	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 29th session
5-13 March	Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, 10th session
9-27 March	International Civil Service Commission, 35th session
9 March-3 April	Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 4th session
20 March	Special Committee against Apartheid—Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
23 March-10 April	Human Rights Committee, 44th session
30 March-16 April	Committee on Information, 14th session
March	UNICEF—Executive Board, organizational session

Geneva

27 January-6 March	Commission on Human Rights, 48th session
January-March	Conference on Disarmament, first part
2-20 March	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 41st session
16-20 March	Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 3rd session
16 March-3 April	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—Legal Subcommittee, 31st session
23 March-3 April	UNCTAD—Trade and Development Board, 38th session, second part

Vienna

10-19 February	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, 12th session
11-20 March	Commission on the Status of Women, 36th session
30 March-8 April	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 35th session

Other locations

8-25 February	UN Conference on Trade and Development, 8th session, Cartagena de Indias
17-21 February	INSTRAW—Board of Trustees, 12th session, Santo Domingo
February-March	Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, 10th session, Kingston

UN Membership

In four decades, the membership of the United Nations has more than tripled, from 51 to 159. The countries represented in the Organization now account for over 98 per cent of the world's population.

1945 **THE 51 FOUNDING MEMBERS**: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

1946 Afghanistan, Iceland, Sweden, Thailand

1947 Pakistan, Yemen

1948 Myanmar

1949 Israel

1950 Indonesia

1955 Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Democratic Kampuchea, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka

1956 Japan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia

1957 Ghana, Malaysia

1958 Guinea

1960 Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, Zaire

1961 Mauritania, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania

1962 Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda

1963 Kenya, Kuwait

1964 Malawi, Malta, Zambia

1965 Gambia, Maldives, Singapore

1966 Barbados, Botswana, Guyana, Lesotho

1968 Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Swaziland

1970 Fiji

1971 Bahrain, Bhutan, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates

1973 Bahamas, Germany

1974 Bangladesh, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau

1975 Cape Verde, Comoros, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Suriname

1976 Angola, Samoa, Seychelles

1977 Djibouti, Viet Nam

1978 Dominica, Solomon Islands

1979 Saint Lucia

1980 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Zimbabwe

1981 Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu

1983 Saint Kitts and Nevis

1984 Brunei Darussalam

1990 Liechtenstein, Namibia

1991 Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Republic of Korea

The names of countries are those in use in 1991.

UN System

The units and programmes established by the United Nations over the last 45 years have given it a growing competence to deal with a very wide range of international problems. The list below shows when major units were established.

1945 **UNITED NATIONS**

1946 UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

1949 UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

1951 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

1957 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

1963 World Food Programme (WFP)

1964 International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC)

1964 UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

1965 UN Development Programme (UNDP)

1965 UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

1969 UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

1972 Office of the UN Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)

1972 UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

1973 United Nations University (UNU)

1974 World Food Council (WFC)

1976 International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

1978 UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)(UNCHS)

1991 UN Drug Control Programme

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

1947 Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

1947 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

1948 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

1958 Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

1973 Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Linked to the UN are specialized intergovernmental organizations, some founded in the last century. The list below shows when these organizations or their predecessor bodies were either established or became specialized agencies.

1865 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

1873 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

1874 Universal Postal Union (UPU)

1883 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

1919 International Labour Organisation (ILO)

1945 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

1945 International Monetary Fund (IMF)

1945 Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

1946 UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

1947 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

1948 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

1948 World Health Organization (WHO)

1956 International Finance Corporation (IFC)

1958 International Maritime Organization (IMO)

1960 International Development Association (IDA)

1974 International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1986 UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Courtesy of UN CHRONICLE